Imelda tried to make a deal on Swiss funds—PCGG

Story on PAGE A3

Stampede mars show of 'Meteor Garden' stars

By Marinel R. Cruz
Entertainment

EVEN before "Meteor Garden" stars Vaness Wu and Ken Zhu could sing "Can't Lose You" and other hits at their one-night concert on Saturday at the Philsports Football Field (formerly Ultra) in Pasig City, unruly fans broke the barricade at the exit gate, resulting in a stam-

STAMPEDE/ A17

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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- Mayor survives 3rd slay try
  ACROSS /A11
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Politicians linked to bank heists

Loot for poll campaigns, says solon

By Carlito Pablo and Tina Santos
Metro

ARMED robbers have made off with at least P63 million from 26 Filipino and foreign banks in less than nine months, raising suspicions that the heists were part of fund-raising activities of people seeking public office in May next year.

In the first two weeks of September alone, three banks were robbed, according to a lawmaker who yesterday called on the Philippine National Police to investigate possible links between politicians and crime syndicates behind the rash of bank robberies.

Rep. Joseph Santiago (NPC, Catanduanes) noted that the bank robberies "may have something to do with the fund-raising drives of politicians with links to crime gangs or may be related to recent attempts to discredit and destabilize the government."

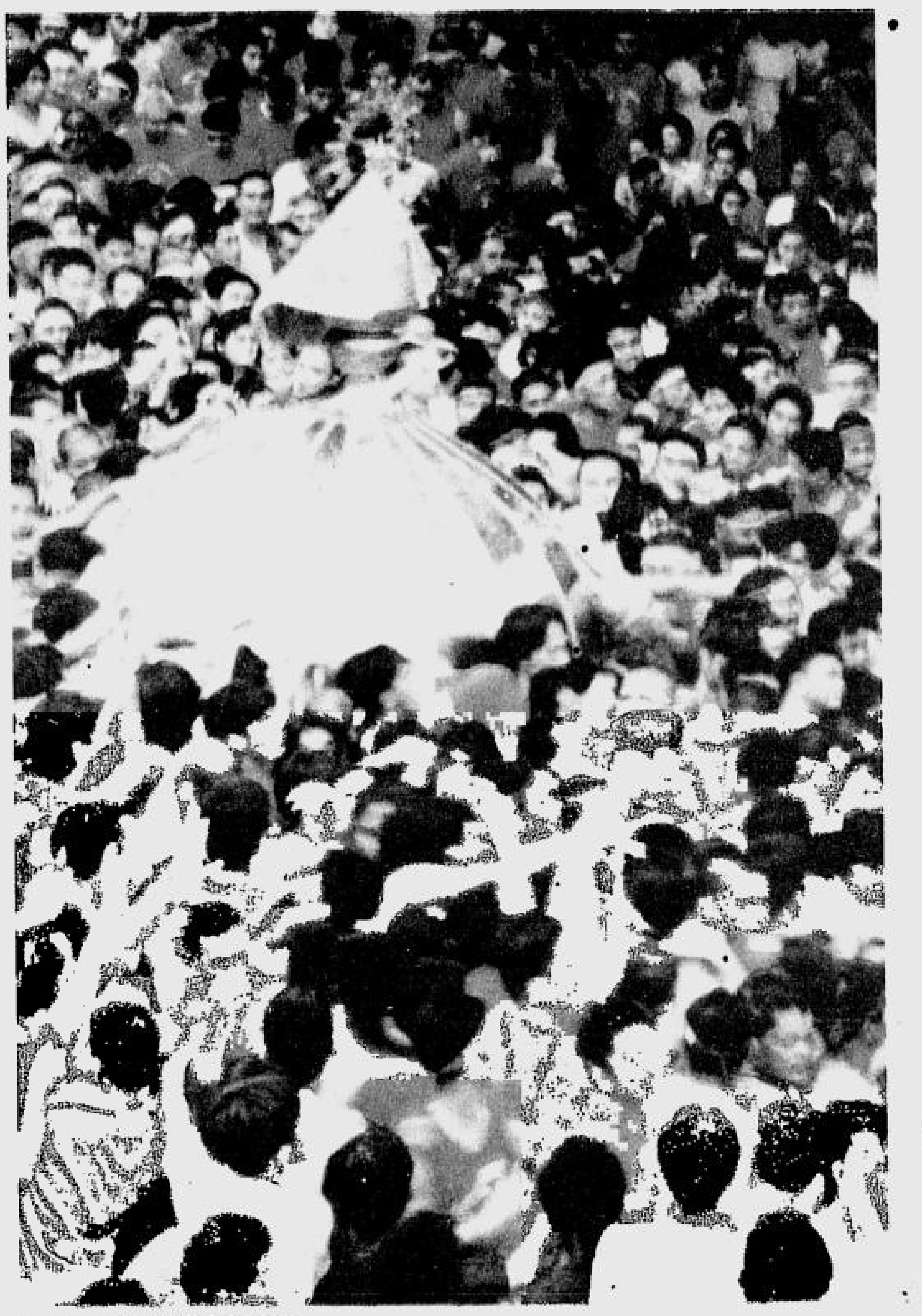
Data show that organized crime activities rise each time elections are approaching, according to Santiago.

"Nine of the 26 bank heists reported were carried out after the July 27 failed mutiny," said Santiago, a former head of the National Telecommunications Commission. Fourteen of the 26 bank robberies took place in Metro Manila, he said.

The lawmaker identified the three banks robbed over the past two weeks as the Union Bank of the Philippines branch in Parañaque on Sept. 1, with robbers taking away P300,000; BPI Family Bank branch in Bacoor, Cavite on Sept. 11, P1.5 million; and Planters Development Bank branch in Valenzuela City, Sept. 12, P200,000.

Certain PNP officials earlier said the bank robberies and the high-profile assassination of certain individuals might be part of a grand design to destabilize the Macapagal administration.

POLITICIANS/ A21



PEÑAFRANCIA RITUAL
The image of the Our Lady of Peñafrancia wades in a sea of devotees during Friday's "Traslacion," which opened the weeklong religious festival in Naga City. NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Pangilinan to Lacson: Present evidence first

By Christine O. Avendano

ADMINISTRATION Sen. Francis Pangilinan has a plan.

He will ask opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson to "first present the evidence he has" regarding the Jose Pidal accounts, which Ignacio Arroyo, the President's brother-in-law, has claimed was his.

"Then on the basis of the evidence, we can compel Mr. Arroyo to testify," Pangilinan said, in a text message to the INQUIRER.

Pangilinan and other senators from the three committees investigating the Jose Pidal accounts are meeting today to decide on the fate of the inquiry, but Lacson, who stirred the controversy in the first place, won't be at the meeting.

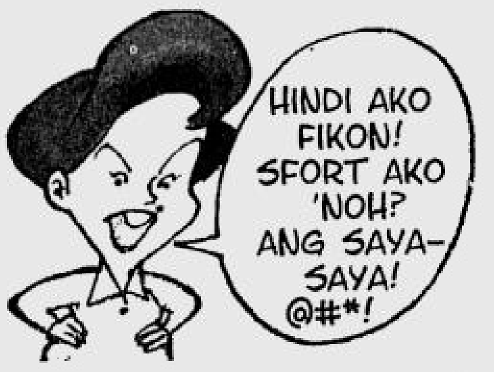
Lacson is still abroad, reportedly on an evidence-gathering mission.

Pangilinan, a lawyer, said that before senators tackle the issue on right to privacy, "the issue of sufficiency of evidence presented by the accuser" should be first resolved.

He explained that the "basic tenets in law" recognize that "one is presumed innocent unless proven otherwise and that he who alleges must prove."

"To insist that Mr. Ignacio Arroyo explain why he shouldn't be cited in contempt if Senator Lacson, the accuser, has yet to submit evidence sufficient to prove his claims is putting the cart before

PANGILINAN/ A20


HINDI AKO FIKON! SFORT AKO 'NOH? ANG SAYA-SAYA! @#*!

GMA jokes save Gridiron show rehash

By Juliet Javellana and Gil Cabacungan

SHE may be at the center of nasty rumors, but President Macapagal-Arroyo on Saturday night showed that she has not lost her sense of humor. In fact, at the annual Gridiron show of the National Press Club, she was in fine form—something which could not be said about the show itself.

Why were most of her Cabinet members absent from the show? Because they "have better things to do."

She praised the former military intelligence chief for an intelligence report. "At last, Victor Corpus' intelligence is accurate. He's really traversed the learning curve from his (Ador) Mawanay days. Noon, *mawawanay siya, ngayon Mahusay na*," she quipped, referring to the Jose Pidal whistle blower who later recanted.

She poked fun at her own media group, which

GMA/ A20

Debate over rights shows fissures in media, Senate

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

TWO fundamental rights, both considered cornerstones of democracy, have come under scorching scrutiny in the aftermath of the failed July 27 coup and the open-ended Senate inquiry into the Jose Pidal accounts—the right of the public to know and the individual's right to privacy.

The debate over the scope of these rights has driven deep fissures in the press and in the Senate, two of the key institutions that underpin democracy and that see themselves as the defenders of democracy and of the people's rights against the abuses of state power.

Not being a lawyer, I am examining these two issues not from the vantage of legal arguments. Those are better left to lawyers and ex-jurists who abound in our litigious society. This essay views these issues on the basis of their political implications for making democracy work, or for paralyzing it through adversarial politics.

The press likes to proclaim the "right of the public to know" as its sacred mission, the yardstick against which its performance is judged by the public it professes to serve. (By "press" I mean the media as an institution, not merely print journalism.) Coverage of the two events, however, has shown the confusion of the press over its priorities, and its conception of where its right to disclose is circumscribed by the right of a democratic state to defend itself against rebellion.

The issue of the "right of the public to

DEBATE/ A20

Still no GMA decision on caretaker

By Juliet Javellana and Gerald G. Lacuarta

WILL the President once again appoint Vice President Teofisto Guingona as government caretaker when she leaves for abroad later this month?

"We'll see," presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said yesterday. "Normally, the President makes the announcement a few days before [her departure]. No [decision yet] as of now," he said.

Guingona, whom President Macapagal-Arroyo appointed to the second-highest post in the

STILL/ A17

BUSINESS AS USUAL

Aetas sell souvenir necklaces to US Marines who disembarked from three US ships at the Subic Freeport, a former American military base, in Zambales. The troops will join their Filipino counterparts in the eight-day RP-US Amphibious Ready Exercise. (*Story on Page A2*)

DENNIS SABANGAN/EPA

Death of toxic waste victims fuels protest

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SAN FERNANDO CITY—Juan Ortiz Sr. and Vicente Reyes, who both worked at the former Subic Naval Base in Zambales, had looked forward to US President George W. Bush's visit to the country next month.

But in late August, the two men died of asbestosis, a form of lung cancer they contracted while handling asbestos at the former US naval base. Before they died, Ortiz, 71, and Reyes, 65, had helped organize the "toxic victims' march."

Asbestos, a carcinogen, was used in Subic as insulation for facilities with air-conditioning units, pipes and warship boilers.

Ortiz and Reyes' deaths brought to seven the number of former base workers who died of asbestosis since July, according to the People's Task Force for Bases Cleanup.

Jade Russel Timbas of the task force said the deaths of Ortiz and Reyes amid preparations for the Oct. 18 rally of toxic waste victims, has given the group more reason to continue to clamor for environmental rehabilitation and health assistance from the US government.

DEATH/ A21

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/15/03

Second FRONTPAGE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

US troops land at Subic

By Allan Macatuno
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—On board three amphibious assault ships, some 2,000 US Marine and Navy personnel arrived here on Sunday to participate in an eight-day training exercise with their Filipino counterparts.

The USS Essex, USS Fort McHenry and USS Harpers Ferry docked at the Alava Pier at around 8 a.m., carrying ground, air and support services equipment to be used during the joint Philippine-US Amphibious Group Exercises (Argex 03).

US officials said their troops belonged to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit based in Okinawa, Japan.

Second Lt. Tryiokasus Brown, US Marine Corps public affairs officer, said about 1,500 American soldiers would join the exercises at the Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga, Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija and Ternate in Cavite. The rest of the contingent will stay on their ships.

"This exercise is designed to improve readiness skills and inter-operability between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and US marines," Brown told reporters.

Commander Geronimo Malabanan, Philippine Navy public information officer, said 600 Filipino troops would join the exercises.

The exercises would include live-fire training, air support operations and ship-to-shore landings. Civic action would also be undertaken, such as medical and dental missions in Palayan City in Nueva Ecija, and engineering activities in surrounding communities.

Asked if the US troops would be allowed to have "liberty" or a rest and recreation period during their stay in this former American military base, Brown said US officials had yet to issue a directive on the matter.

"Right now, it [liberty] has not been decided yet. The decision will be made by US and Philippine forces officials," he said.

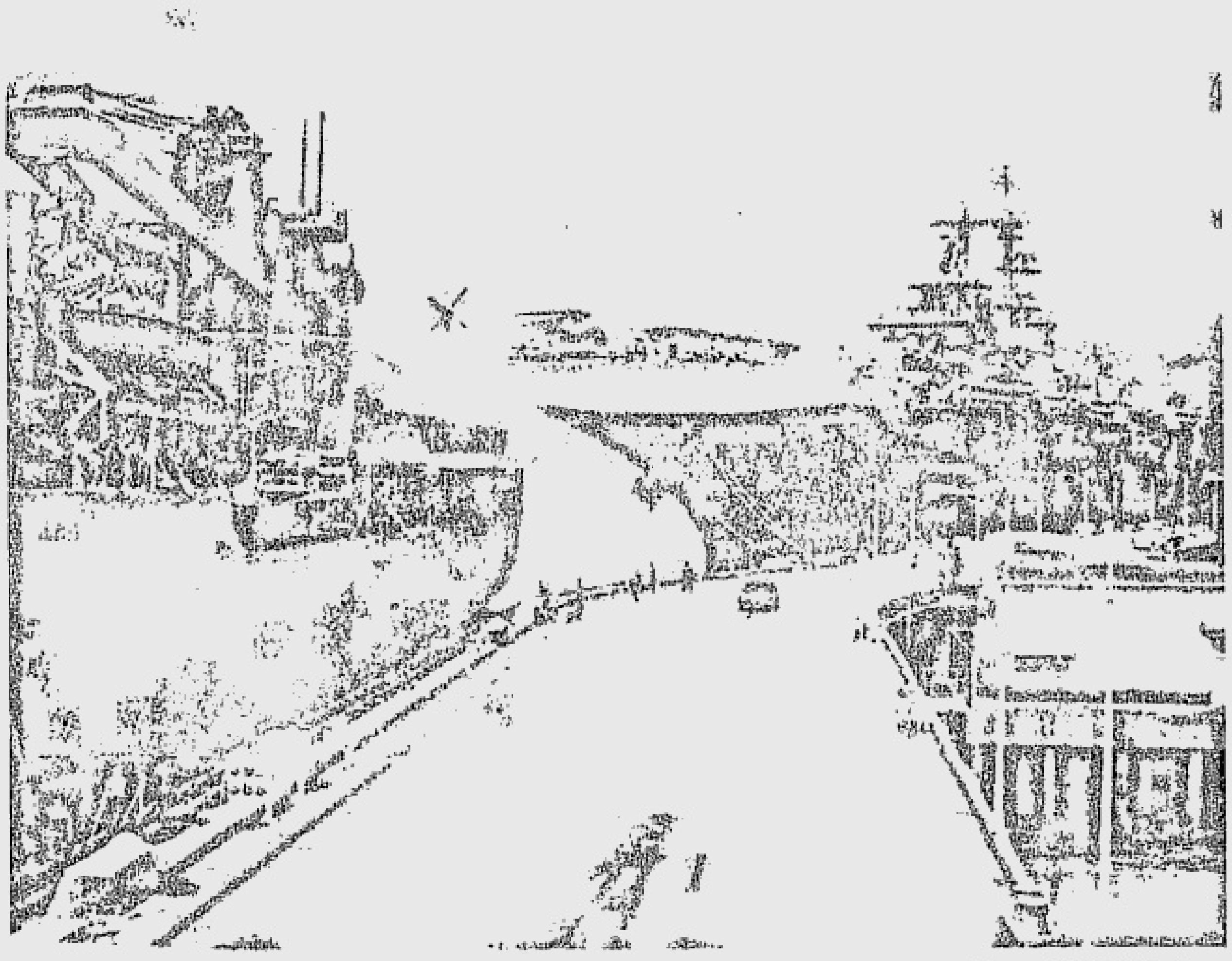
He clarified that the holding of Argex 03 was not related to the visit of US President George W. Bush in October. He said the exercises were planned long before Bush's scheduled visit to the Philippines.

"This is a follow-up to the success of inter-operability exercises which were conducted early this year," Brown said.

The Philippines is a staunch supporter of the US-led global war on terrorism.

In May, Bush elevated the country to a major non-Nato ally. This means greater military assistance to Manila, including exercises and military hardware.

Hundreds of US troops were deployed to Western Mindanao in 2001 for joint exercises aimed at helping the Philippine military go after the Abu Sayyaf, a small group of bandits linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network. *With a report from AFP*



THE USS Essex (at left) and the USS McHenry dock at the Subic port a day before the start of Argex 03 with Filipino troops.

ALLAN MACATUNO

PNP to train Asean cops vs terrorism

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE PHILIPPINE National Police has been tapped to train other police forces in Southeast Asia on counterterrorism.

The joint training exercise was agreed upon during last week's 23rd Asean Chiefs of National Police (Aseanapol) conference at the Manila Hotel.

PNP officials will be holding meetings with their Asean counterparts to iron out the details of the training.

Aside from the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia will be involved in training other Aseanapol members as part of the regional campaign against terrorism.

The Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand will provide basic and advance courses on law enforcement, while Singapore will provide logistical support for the training.

Other than the Philippines, these countries have scored big in the antiterror campaign by arresting key members of the Jemaah Islamiyah, particularly Riduan Isamuddin, alias Hambali.

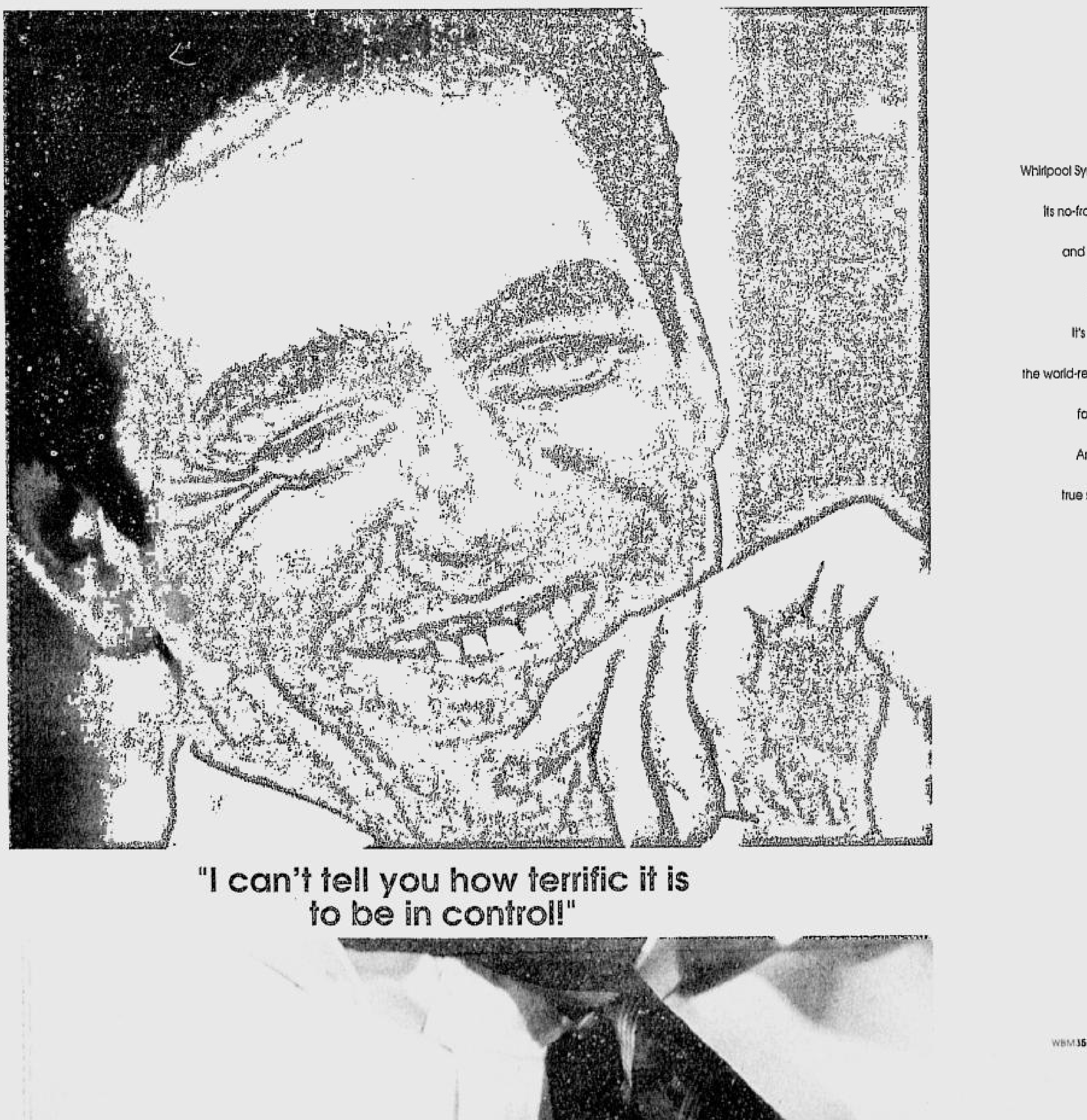
Anticipating retaliation from the JI, Asean police have focused on strengthening border security and intelligence gathering to prevent terrorist attacks.

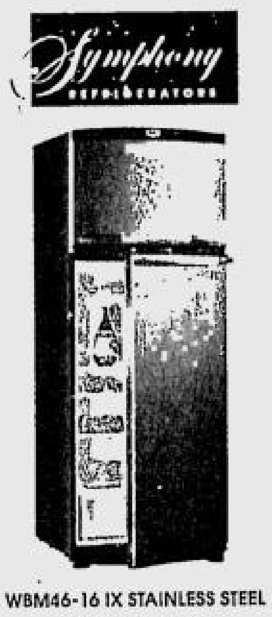
Part of the intelligence gathering will be the close monitoring of "emerging militant and radical groups in the region."

The region's police are also working on an elaborate database that would allow them to quickly exchange information on terrorist activities.

The revitalized campaign against terrorism will be put to the test in at least three upcoming events.

Next month, Thailand will host the Asia Pacific Economic Conference (Apec) and Indonesia the Asean Summit Meeting. Vietnam will hold the Southeast Asean Games in December.





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Imelda tried to make a deal on Swiss funds, PCGG claims

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

FORMER First Lady Imelda Marcos tried to make a deal with the Macapagal administration on the ill-gotten $683-million Marcos Swiss funds.

According to the Presidential Commission on Good Government, Marcos offered a compromise through her own lawyer and through the lawyer of a group of victims.

Commissioner Ruben Carranza on Friday said Marcos lawyer James Linn approached them last year to discuss a settlement on "the Hawaii suit."

This referred to the $2 billion in damages awarded in 1994 to 9,539 martial law victims by United States District Court of Hawaii Judge Manuel Real.

Carranza also disclosed that the claimants' American lawyer Robert Swift brought up with the government the Marcoses' desire for a compromise on the Swiss funds and their other assets here and abroad.

He said that in a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo dated Feb. 18, 2003, Swift wrote: "The (Marcos) family has a genuine desire to reach a resolution and is prepared to negotiate in earnest ... Imelda Marcos and Governor (Ferdinand) Marcos (Jr.) are willing to attend a mediation if it is held in Hawaii."

Five months later, on July 3, Swift reportedly met with the President and Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo to settle the ownership dispute over Marcos assets in the US.

'Conspiracy'

On July 15, the Supreme Court forfeited the Swiss funds in favor of the government. But Carranza said the Marcoses and Swift conspired to prevent the government from laying hands on the $683 million.

He said Linn and Swift were behind Real's order last Sept. 2 blocking the transfer, and reviving the $150-million compromise deal in 1998.

Under that deal, the Marcoses agreed to pay the victims $150 million out of the Swiss accounts, on condition that the late dictator would be absolved of any crime.

Swift signed the agreement, which former president Joseph Estrada approved.

PCGG chair Haydee Yorac has consistently put her foot down against any compromise with the Marcoses.

"We do not recognize that settlement," said Carranza, pointing out that the Sandiganbayan has declared the deal unconstitutional.

The head of Selda, which consists of most of the 9,539 victims in the Hawaii class suit, shared Carranza's suspicions.

"Swift colluded with the Marcoses," said Selda chair Marie Hilao-Enriquez. "If (Real) wants to get indemnification (for the victims), why block (the transfer of the money)?"

Selda and Swift had a falling out in 1994, which led to the creation of another claimants group, Claimants 1081.

Enriquez chided Swift: "It's not just about collecting damages. We're accusing Marcos of crimes against humanity." She reminded the lawyer, "that's the money of the Filipino people."

'Flattering'

On Thursday in Laoag City, Imelda Marcos described as "untrue but flattering" Carranza's accusations that her family had a hand in the Hawaii court's injunction.

"(Is he) saying that the Marcoses are more (powerful) than the superpower?" she asked.

In any case, the Marcos widow said, she and her family would prevail "under any administration" in their efforts to keep the Swiss deposits. *With Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

IF they are really getting P20,000 a month, these members of the NPA in the Compostela Valley would certainly have every reason to cheer.

PDI PHOTO

NPA offering new recruits P20,000/mo., military says

DAVAO CITY—The military yesterday claimed that communist rebels in the city are offering a monthly salary of P20,000 to new recruits in the communist movement.

Lt. Col. Agane Adriatico, chief of the military's 5th Civil Relations Group in Southeastern Mindanao, said New People's Army (NPA) rebels were recruiting lumad minors, adding that those who refuse to join are forcibly taken.

"The NPA rebels have conducted massive recruitment, training, orientation and forcing minors to embrace the NPA ideology and the armed struggle which is a clear violation of children's rights," he said.

But a rebel leader immediately dismissed the claim, saying it was only meant to discredit the revolutionary movement.

Jorge Madlos, spokesperson of the National Democratic Front (NDF) in Mindanao, said the rebel group has never forced people to join its armed struggle.

"People are joining us because they are fed up with the system," he said.

But Adriatico said the latest recruitment activity involving lumad minors in Paquibato District occurred on Sept. 3.

He said he was informed by a military asset that an undetermined number of NPA rebels went to Sitio Marlagas in Barangay Fatima and managed to convince at least 50 children aged 12 to 16 to join the movement. The children were then taken for indoctrination and training.

To counter the NPA's recruitment drive, Adriatico said the military is conducting dialogues with indigenous communities. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Why Danding is in no hurry to decide

CONCEPCION, Tarlac—Politicians had expected businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. to finally announce his bid for the presidency but were frustrated yet again when the former ambassador opted not to lay down his political cards just yet.

"While good leaders make swift decisions, let me explain why I have remained undecided," Cojuangco told several congressmen and local politicians during the birthday celebration of Tarlac Rep. Jesli Lapus here yesterday.

Cojuangco, chair of the Nationalist People's Coalition, said he was still weighing his political options due to the difficulty of governing the country under the present system. He said those in a hurry to become president without first studying the country's problems will be doing the Filipino people a disservice.

"Kaya po ako hindi padalos-dalos sa desisyon (That's why I'm not rushing into any decision)," he said.

Lapus invited Cojuangco to his birthday bash yesterday at the Benigno S. Aquino Jr. Memorial High School in Barangay Alonso here and at his orchid farm in Barangay Sto. Rosario.

Also present were Sen. Loren Legarda, Tarlac Rep. Gilbert Teodoro, Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos, Tarlac Gov. Jose Yap and Vice Gov. Marcelino Aganon and Tarlac mayors and other officials.

Board Member Pearl Angeli Pacada, a Cojuangco supporter and a member of the NPC-Sama-Sama sa Tarlac Party, said Cojuangco came here "simply to explain why he has yet to decide."

Platform

In his speech, Cojuangco refused to reveal his decision but practically laid down a platform of government.

Cojuangco identified a "legislating Supreme Court" as one of the ills afflicting the country.

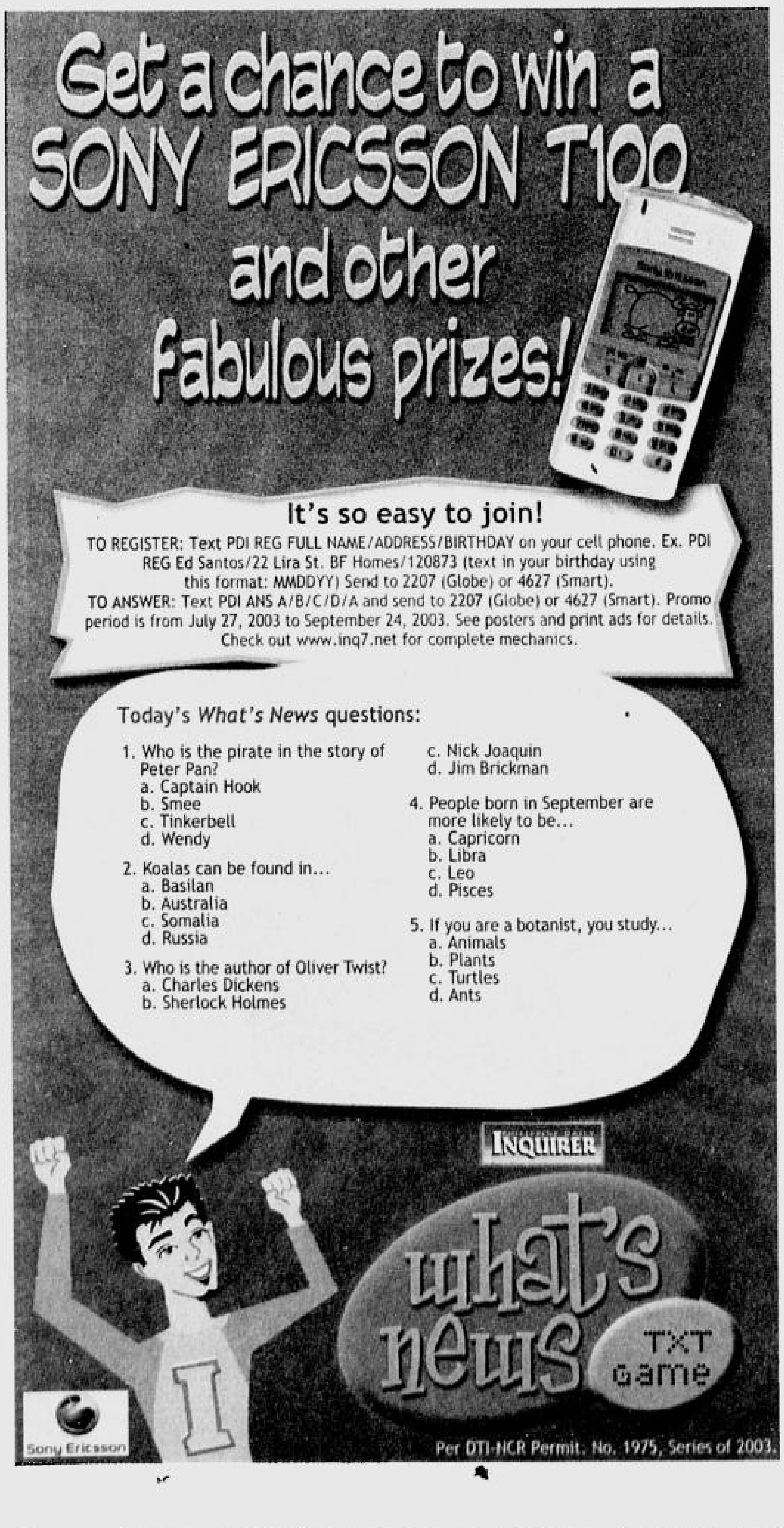
"There are four (legislative) chambers in the Philippines: the Upper House (Senate), the Lower House (House of Representatives), the bicameral committee and the Supreme Court," he said.

In Pangasinan, Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. said President Macapagal-Arroyo is still the "overwhelming choice" of the administration party Lakas CMD as standard bearer in next year's elections.

De Venecia said while Ms Macapagal, who announced last year that she would not run for president in 2004, is under pressure from Lakas officials to run, several party members are pushing Cojuangco to be the Lakas standard bearer.

"Of course, President Macapagal-Arroyo is the overwhelming choice. But if she would not be available, we have to look for an alternative and a substantial number (of Lakas members) want Cojuangco," De Venecia, Lakas co-chair, told reporters in Pangasinan.

He said the Lakas national directorate will meet next month to decide on the party's presidential candidate. *Russell Arador, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



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Today's *What's News* questions:

1. Who is the pirate in the story of Peter Pan?
   a. Captain Hook
   b. Smee
   c. Tinkerbell
   d. Wendy
2. Koalas can be found in...
   a. Basilan
   b. Australia
   c. Somalia
   d. Russia
3. Who is the author of Oliver Twist?
   a. Charles Dickens
   b. Sherlock Holmes
   c. Nick Joaquin
   d. Jim Brickman
4. People born in September are more likely to be...
   a. Capricorn
   b. Libra
   c. Leo
   d. Pisces
5. If you are a botanist, you study...
   a. Animals
   b. Plants
   c. Turtles
   d. Ants

INQUIRER what's news TXT game

Sony Ericsson

Per DTI-NCR Permit. No. 1975, Series of 2003.

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WHO warns of AIDS epidemic in Asia

By Jerome Aning

WORLD health officials fear that a bigger AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) epidemic is threatening the Western Pacific.

The Manila-based World Health Organization-Western Pacific Regional Office said significant increases in sexually transmitted infections continue to be recorded, particularly among young adults, fueling the danger of a wider spread of the Human Immuno-deficiency Virus (HIV).

This "high-risk behavior" is on the rise, the officials noted, despite a vigorous anti-AIDS campaign by governments and health groups in East Asian, Southeast Asian and Western Pacific countries.

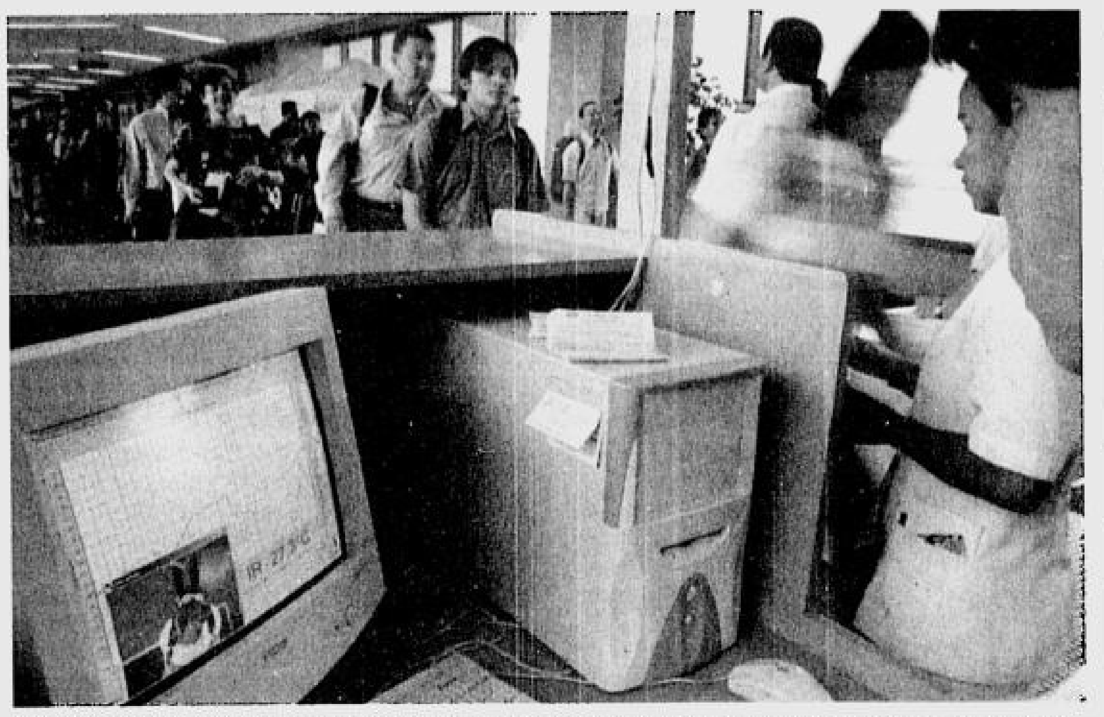
There are an estimated 1.2 million cases of HIV infection in the region. The condition is a precursor to full-blown AIDS. Of this number as of June 2002, 41,751 had developed into AIDS. The WHO regional governing body projected an increase of up to 55,000 AIDS cases each year, until the total reaches about 120,000 by 2005.

HIV/AIDS was on top of the agenda during the regional committee's Manila summit last week, attended by representatives from 37 member-countries and territories.

The body cited "growing levels" of infections especially in Mongolia, the Philippines and the Pacific Islands.

In a press statement, the WHO-WPRO said: "Surveys in China, Malaysia and Vietnam show that the percentage of intravenous drug users selling sex is increasing. Evidence suggests (that) this is facilitating the spread of HIV into the wider community."

During the summit, the delegates agreed on interventions—or "harm-reduction strategies"—that needed to be continued and strengthened. These include condom promotion, needle and syringe exchange programs, expanded treatment for intravenous drug users, and more effective partnerships among the WHO, governments and partner agencies.



ARRIVING international passengers have their temperatures checked by a thermal scanner at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Friday as a precaution against the resurgence of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, after Singapore confirmed its newest SARS case. So far, no other country has reported the return of the dreaded disease.

EPA/MIKE ALQUINTO

Veterans' party-list reps still hoping to sit in Congress

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

FILIPINO war veterans have waited years for benefits and recognition, but they cannot wait any longer for the seats in Congress that they won in the 2001 elections but have been blocked from occupying, especially since the 2004 polls are only eight months away.

The Veterans Federation Party (VFP) has asked the Supreme Court to direct the Commission on Elections to resolve immediately its motion for reconsideration of a Comelec resolution which disqualified the VFP from the 2001 party-list elections on the ground it was an adjunct of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines.

The VFP landed fourth in a field of 150 participants in the 2001 party-list polls with 576,000 votes, which would have entitled it to three seats in the House of Representatives.

The VFP first participated in the party-list elections in 1998 where it won a seat and installed Eduardo Pilapil as its representative.

In its motion for reconsideration before the Comelec, the VFP contested the poll body's findings that it was affiliated with the other VFP, saying the latter was a public corporation composed of affiliated veterans organizations.

Party-list rules disqualify organizations that receive government aid and funding from participating in the polls.

Party lawyer Romulo Macalintal said the VFP is a party-list organization composed of individual members and the veterans themselves.

"This makes the two organizations distinct and separate," Macalintal said.

The VFP's motion stated that the party has not received a single centavo either from the Veterans Federation of the Philippines or the government.

While the VFP's motion for reconsideration was pending with the Comelec, the SC on June 26, 2001, acting on several petitions filed by other, sectoral parties, ordered the Comelec to determine the winners of the party-list elections on the basis of the criteria set by the high court.

The following month, the Comelec submitted a recommendation to the SC listing qualified party-list candidates, which became the basis of the SC order disqualifying several party-list groups, including the VFP, and proclaiming the winners based on the number of votes garnered.

Joker warns Abalos to lay off overseas voting law

SAYING that only Congress can amend a law, Sen. Joker Arroyo yesterday cautioned Commission on Elections chair Benjamin Abalos against relaxing the Absentee Voting Law to entice more overseas Filipinos to register and vote in the May 2004 elections.

Arroyo said the Comelec would be "out of bounds" if it gave in to the proposal of Filipino-American business magnate Loida Nicolas-Lewis to allow overseas registrants to present their foreign-issued passports instead of their naturalization papers when they sign up for the Philippine elections.

Abalos was said to be amenable to Lewis' suggestion as the Comelec is confronted with a very low turnout of applicants for overseas voting.

In a phone interview, Arroyo said the requirements for overseas voters are "very clear" in the Absentee Voting Law.

He said Lewis' suggestion would be against the law, adding that Abalos should go to Congress if he wants to have it amended.

Arroyo also said Abalos cannot extend the Sept. 30 registration deadline.

In a statement, Arroyo said the Comelec's Constitutional authority is to "enforce and administer all laws and regulations relative to the conduct of an election ... It has no business relaxing the laws, only Congress can do that."

"If one cannot present Philippine documents to show that he was a Filipino citizen once upon a time, a foreign document attesting to that is not acceptable," Arroyo said.

Christine O. Avendaño

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247,000	20,583	13,722	11,107	8,010	6,463	5,890
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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Little girl needs expensive liver transplant to live

FOUR-year-old Hannabelle Dasco was born with a rare liver disease that prevents her from living a normal life. If she does not get a liver transplant soon, she may not even survive her pain-filled childhood.

Hannabelle's parents, Henry and Florabel, have embarked on an ambitious fund-raising campaign for the P3-million operation in a Taiwan hospital.

The girl was born on Aug. 9, 1999, the Dascos' second child. At four months old, she was diagnosed with Allagile Syndrome, a condition in which the liver does not have enough bile ducts. Bile, a liver-produced enzyme necessary for digestion, thus builds up and slowly destroys the organ.

According to her latest clinical abstract, Hannabelle is suffering from deepening jaundice, abdominal enlargement and portal hypertension. She is being treated by pediatrician Dr. Jossie Rogacia and gastro-enterologist Dr. Germana Gregorio at the Philippine General Hospital.

The PGH doctors and other medical experts have told the couple that before the liver completely deteriorates, Hannabelle should get a transplant. Unfortunately, the delicate procedure is not yet done locally.

Florabel is a teacher at the national high school in Cavite City. Henry is an engineer with Gampak Construction and Development Corp. in Quezon City. Their combined income is barely enough for the child's frequent hospitalization and expensive medicines.

The couple approached Lift-BABIES (Life Thru Transplants-Biliary Artesia Babies Information, Education and Support) Foundation Inc. in Parañaque City, which assists families with children suffering from rare liver diseases.

For Hannabelle's operation, the couple chose the Chang Gung Memorial Hospital in Kaohsuing, Taiwan, which has pioneered in pediatric liver transplants in Asia. Lift-BABIES facilitated successful liver transplants for two babies in 2000 and 2002 at the same hospital.

But first, the Dascos need to raise the P3 million.

Interested parties may send donations to ITF Hannabelle Dasco, Account No. 3-00522488-9, Metrobank, Cavite City Branch. Or they may contact Henry and Florabel at their home, 374 D. P. Jimenez St., Wawa 3, Rosario, Cavite, tel. nos. (046) 438-1341 or (0916) 828-4992.

Lift BABIES Foundation may be reached via tel. (632) 824-4621 or (0918) 926-3237. *Jerome Aning*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, September 15, 2003
Our Lady of Sorrows

1st Reading: Heb 5:7-9
Gospel: Jn 19:25-27

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister Mary, who was the wife of Cleophas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw the Mother, and the disciple whom he loved, he said to the Mother, "Woman, this is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "There is your mother." And from that moment the disciple took her to his own home.

Commentary

"Woman, this is your son!" If there is a person who feels what a child suffers, it is no other than the mother. On the cross, it was not only Jesus who was crucified. Mary was also crucified just by looking at the tremendous pain and suffering of her son. When Jesus died on the cross, Mary also experienced the bitterness of death. Jesus entrusted to Mary his disciples and the disciples after them. Mary feels the agony and pain of the present day disciples. We can come to her for comfort, we can ask for her prayers, we can come to her for strength to face the difficulties of life. On the cross, Jesus gifted us with a spiritual mother who truly cares for us. A mother who will always bring us to the Son who is able to make wine out of water, the wine of joy and salvation. Hail Mary, mother of God and our mother, pray for us ...

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE)—Leading questions; child witness—As a rule, leading questions are not allowed. However, the rules provide for exceptions when the witness is a child of tender years as it is usually difficult for such child to state facts without prompting or suggestion. Leading questions are necessary to coax the truth out of their reluctant lips. In the case at bar, the trial court was justified in allowing leading questions to the child witness as she was evidently young and unlettered, making the recall of events difficult, if not uncertain. As explained in People vs Rodito Dagamos: "The trend in procedural law is to give wide latitude to the courts in exercising control over the questioning of a child witness. The reasons are spelled out in our Rule on Examination of a Child Witness, which took effect on December 15, 2000, namely, (1) to facilitate the ascertainment of the truth, (2) to ensure that questions are stated in a form appropriate to the developmental level of the child, (3) to protect children from harassment or undue embarrassment, and (4) avoid waste of time. Leading questions in all stages of examination of a child are allowed if the same will further the interests of justice." The court has repeatedly stated that it is highly inconceivable for a child of tender age, inexperienced in the ways of the world, to fabricate a charge of defloration, undergo a medical examination of her private part, subject herself to public trial, and tarnish her family's honor and reputation, unless she was motivated by a strong desire to seek justice for the wrong committed against her. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Per Curiam, People v. Perez, G.R. No. 142556, February 5, 2003]

By R. B. Vera

Faulty seatbelt costs Toyota P2.4M

By Anselmo Roque
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ—The regional trial court here has ordered Toyota Motor Phil. Inc. to pay an official of the Philippine Rice Research Institute more than P2.4 million for injuries he sustained in an accident three years ago.

The court ruled that Ronilo Beronio, PhilRice deputy executive director, was seriously hurt in the accident "on account of a defective lap seatbelt" installed in the rice agency's Toyota Hi-Ace van.

The 15-page decision by Judge Lauro Sandoval of the Baloc-Sto. Domingo (Nueva Ecija) Regional Trial Court was issued last May but was made available to reporters only this month.

Sandoval ordered TMPI to pay Beronio P2,445,465.85.

Case records showed that Beronio, who was then PhilRice officer in charge, was on board the Hi-Ace on his way home from an official trip when the van was struck by an Isuzu Elf truck on the Guimba (Nueva Ecija) highway on July 19, 2000.

Beronio underwent two operations and was confined in a hospital for a month. The Toyota van was damaged but its driver escaped unhurt.

In his decision, Sandoval said that based on the evidence presented in court, TMPI was liable because the "lap belt was found to have been poorly designed and locationally misplaced," resulting in injuries to Beronio.

Sandoval handed down his decision on May 5 and TMPI immediately filed an appeal before the Court of Appeals.

Records showed the Isuzu's driver, Melchor Santos of Guimba town, was drunk at the time of the accident.

Beronio, along with PhilRice, sued TMPI, Toyota Motors Cabanatuan City Inc., the local Toyota dealer; the truck's owner Victorino Dizon, and driver Santos.

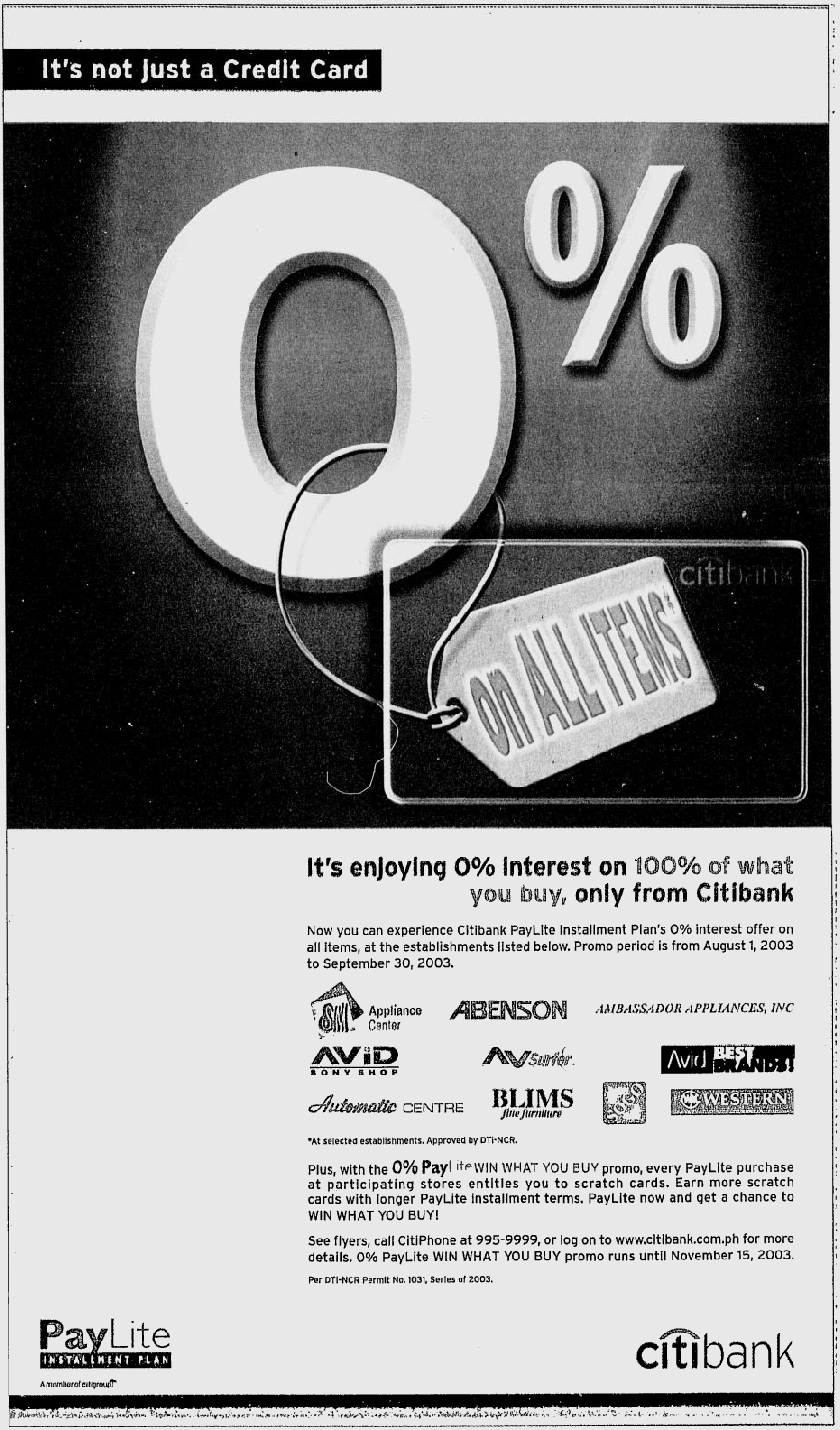
In his testimony, Beronio said he was seated behind the van driver and he had his lap belt on during the entire trip.

He said that when their van was hit, he was thrown forward and the lap belt "moved upward." This upward movement, he said, pushed his abdomen against his spine and pressed on his intestines and other soft tissues in his abdomen.

He presented as a witness his attending physician who said Beronio's injuries were "life threatening."

Beronio also presented an engineer who testified that upon inspection of the vehicle, he found that the lap belt had been anchored one-and-a-half feet (45.72 centimeters) behind the seat where "there is a tendency for it to go up near the stomach rather than stay in the pelvic region."

TMPI, in its reply during the pretrial, said the seatbelt did not malfunction but operated properly. It said the seatbelt was within the technical limits and parameters it was designed to function in.



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1031, Series of 2003.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Big powers agree to pursue Iraq accord

GENEVA—The world's five most powerful nations emerged divided on Saturday from a "candid" debate on Iraq's political future, with France and the United States poles apart on how quickly power should be returned to the people.

But there was no replay of pre-war acrimony at the meeting of foreign ministers from Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States, and they agreed to press on at the United Nations next week to hammer out a new Security Council resolution.

"Consensus is essential and achievable," UN Secretary General Kofi Annan told reporters after the meeting which he had called in Geneva to help break the impasse.

"But consensus is not enough. We want a strong and valid resolution which will support our efforts on the ground ... to win the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people."

With US-led forces in Iraq taking casualties almost every day and the cost of its occupation mounting, Washington sees the UN resolution it has drafted as a way to coax other countries to pitch in with both cash and troops.

On the ground in Iraq, opposition to the US presence is growing. In Fallujah, west of Baghdad, Iraqis chanted "America is the enemy of God" on Saturday as they began burying 10 police and security guards shot mistakenly by US troops.

An Iraqi was shot dead and two others injured in a protest in the southern city of Nasiriya, the Italian central military command said. Its troops were present but none were injured.

US President George W. Bush, pressing his case for help from abroad, urged allies on Friday to join the effort to build a stable post-war Iraq and said free nations could not be neutral in the "fight between civilization and chaos."

Amendments put forward by France and Germany to Washington's draft UN resolution would push US occupation forces under diplomat Paul Bremer to the sidelines.

Europe's fiercest opponents of the US-led war, they want to dilute the US role, in part to prevent Washington reaping long-term political and economic benefits from its invasion.

France is seeking a text that puts executive powers quickly into Iraqi hands, possibly within a month, and provides for elections by next spring.

French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin made it clear after the talks at the United Nations' Geneva headquarters that Paris wanted to avoid another transatlantic bust-up.

Asked if France would use its veto in the US Security Council to block the resolution, he told reporters: "We are here ... to try and find solutions, not to create new problems."

Nevertheless, the standoff between the Big Five powers—the permanent members of the UN Security Council with veto the powers—had echoes of the pre-war drama, with Britain backing the US stance and Russia and China taking a low-key position.

Washington says the French proposal is a recipe for chaos in Iraq, where the US-backed Governing Council has little clout.

"What I found unrealistic about the French timetable ... is that it could all happen within a month or a few weeks. And we had a fairly candid discussion of that," US Secretary of State Colin Powell told reporters.

"You have to have a government which is not only there with the doors open but it has to be functioning. The worst thing one could do is to set them (Iraqis) up for failure."

A French diplomat said the holdup over the UN resolution was the question of Iraqi sovereignty, which Paris sees as a starting point and Washington see as the final objective. *Reuters*

AN IRAQI boy protects his head from the sun as others pray in a mosque where Iraqi cleric Moqtada al-Sadr delivered the Friday prayer sermon in the holy Shiite city of Kufa in central Iraq Sept. 12. AFP

Powell in Iraq; won't commit to timetable

BAGHDAD—US Secretary of State Colin Powell laid out the stages for democracy in Iraq during a historic visit to the war-torn country Sunday, but avoided talk of a timetable floated by the interim government.

"We look forward for the next steps that will come, the writing of a constitution, and from that constitution, the people will be given a chance to express their will," Powell told reporters after a brief meeting in Baghdad with interim Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari.

"This will lead to a democratic Iraq that we will be very pleased to pass on responsibilities to in due course," said Powell, who arrived via Kuwait from Geneva where emergency UN talks on Saturday failed to resolve core issues over Iraq's future.

Powell is the highest-ranking Washington official to visit Iraq since the collapse of Saddam Hussein's regime in April and the first US secretary of state here in half a century.

His visit is seen as a further demonstration of Washington's support for the the US-appointed interim Iraqi Governing Council and the US administrator in Iraq, Paul Bremer.

However, Powell notably shied away from a date of 2004 for elections floated by members of the Governing Council, as well as France, but which has been dismissed by Washington.

"I am confident that the Iraqi people will regain their independence and their sovereignty as soon as possible," Zebari said after his meeting with Powell at a Baghdad hotel.

"We hope that by mid-2004 or before the end of the year we will able to have a sovereign elected legitimate government in place," he said. *AFP*

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SINGAPORE—Lee Kuan Yew, the architect of modern Singapore, has snuffed out talk of retirement, saying he plans to stay in government as long as he is fit and able.

Singapore's senior minister told the Sunday Times he would serve in the Cabinet as long as he could contribute, and then stay on as a member of parliament as long as he was useful.

"I will retire from office when I am no longer able to contribute to the government," Lee, the country's first prime minister, told the newspaper in an interview ahead of his 80th birthday on Tuesday.

As a founder of the long-ruling People's Action Party, Lee spearheaded Singapore's self rule from Britain in 1959 and led the island through its formal separation from Malaysia in 1965, turning it from a post-colonial backwater to an economic dynamo.

He gave up the premiership in 1990.

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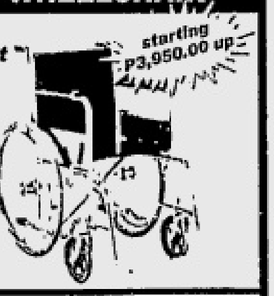

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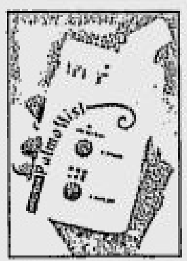

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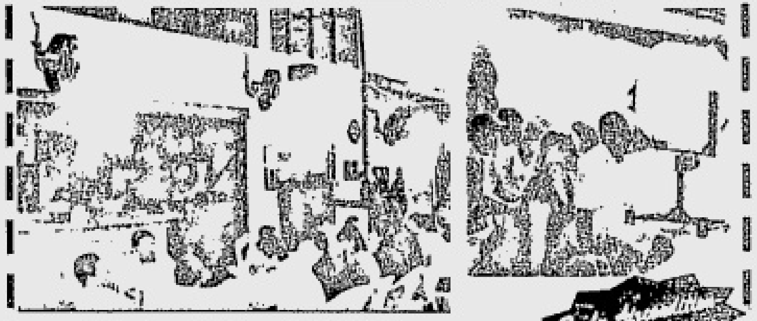

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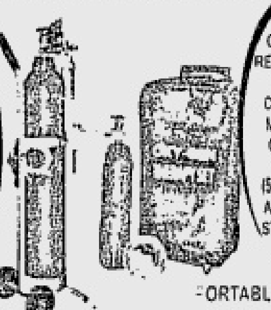

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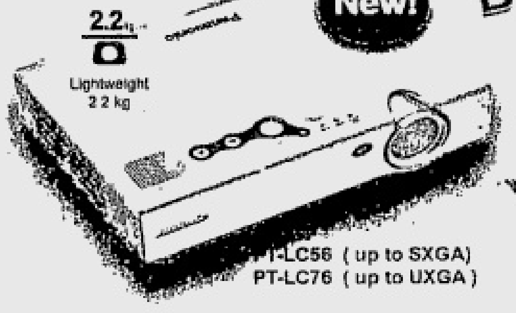

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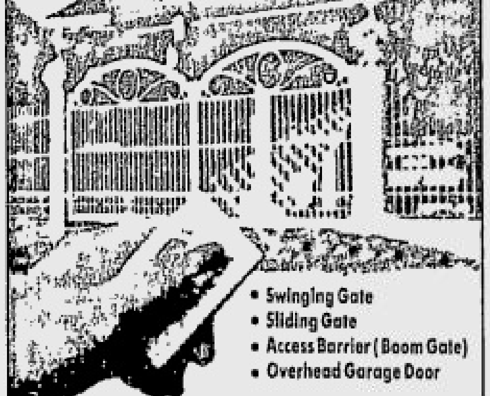

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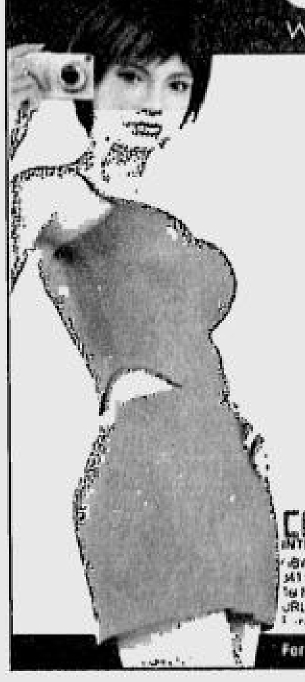
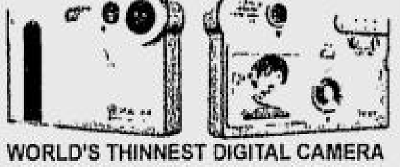

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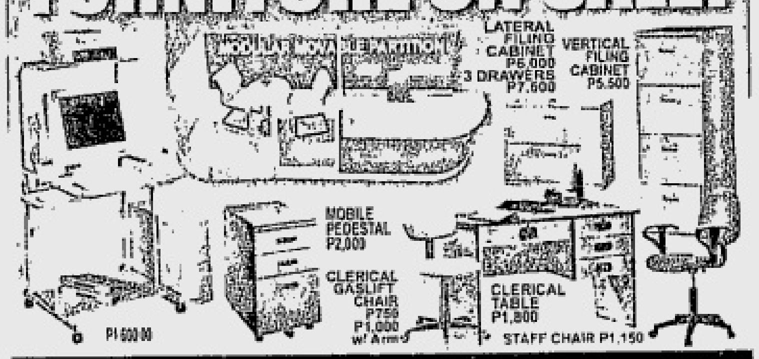

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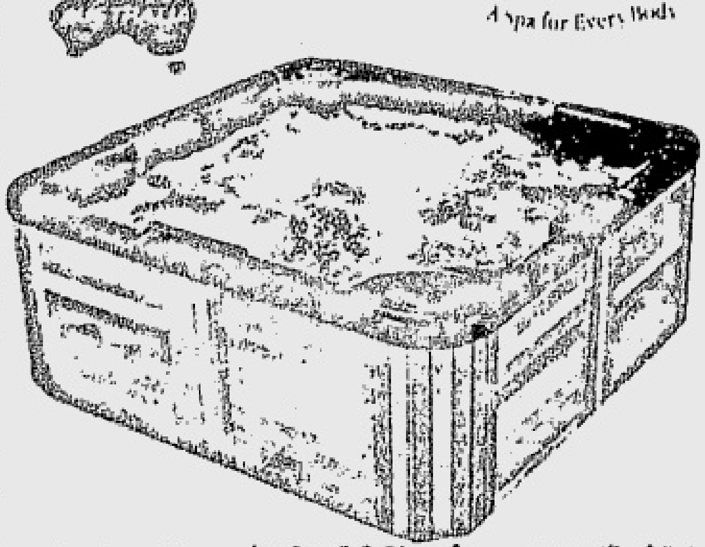

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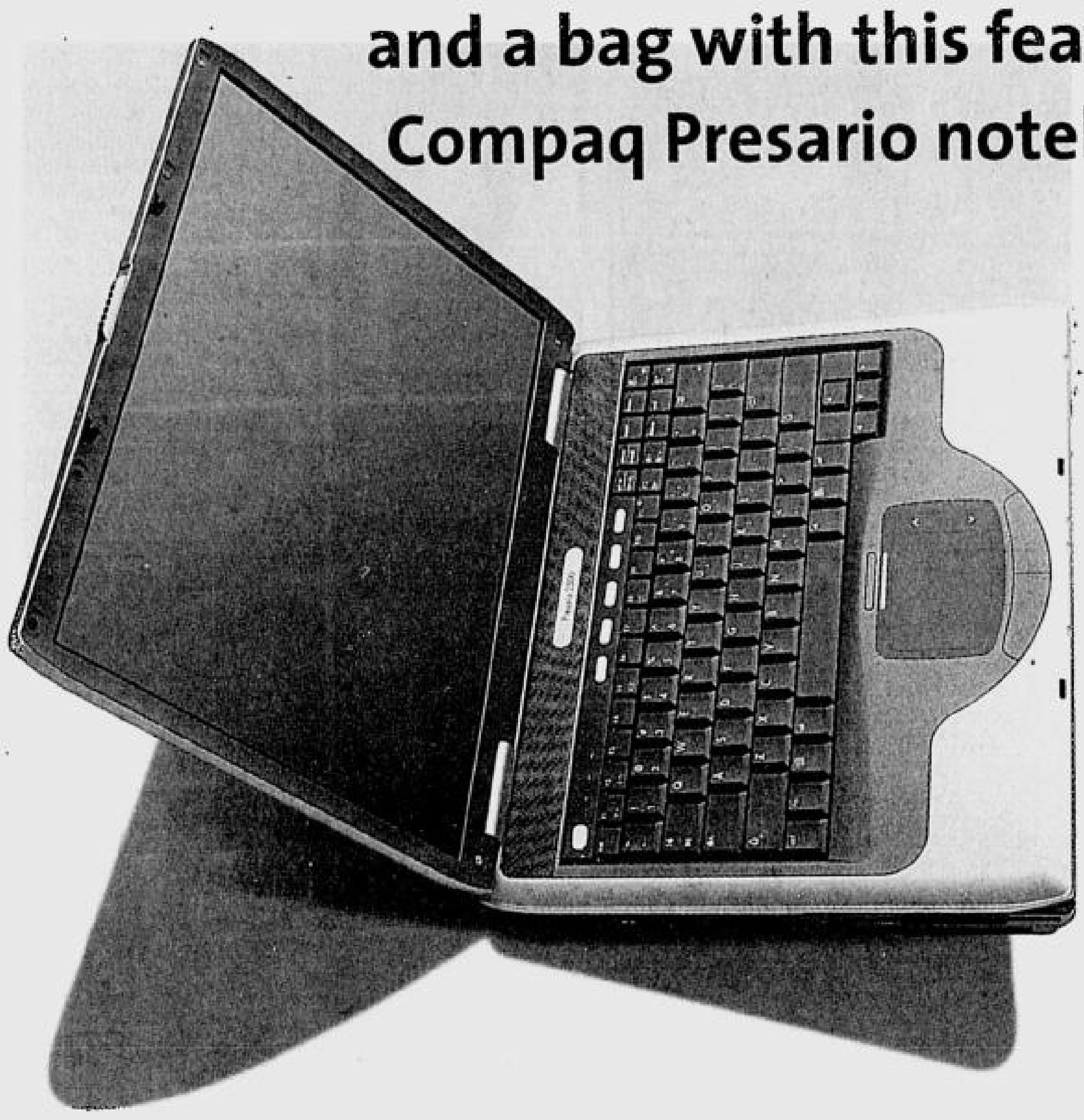

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Fatigued Pope ends draining Slovakia pilgrimage

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia—Recalling Cold War-era crimes against the church, a feeble Pope John Paul II wraps up his draining pilgrimage Sunday by beatifying two clerics who were jailed and tortured under the former communist regime.

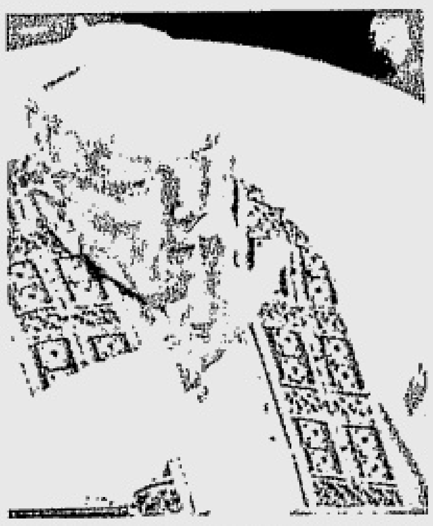
In an open-air Mass in the Slovak capital, the 83-year-old Pope planned to elevate Greek Catholic Bishop Vasil Hopko and Roman Catholic Sister Zdenka Schelingova to the final step before possible sainthood.

John Paul's 102nd foreign pilgrimage has severely tested his age and ailments. The Pope suffers from Parkinson's disease and crippling hip and knee ailments, and is wheeled around by aides on a throne-like chair.

Despite a faltering start to the trip, which began Thursday, the Pontiff mustered enough strength to preside over Masses for several hundred thousand pilgrims in the central city of Banska Bystrica and the eastern city of Roznava, although aides read most of his speeches.

Sunday's final service had an appropriate backdrop: the sprawling Bratislava housing complex of Petrzalka, a bleak jumble of precast concrete high-rises built during communism and nicknamed the Slovak Bronx.

The country's church suffered intense persecution under the communist regime, which ruled until 1989. Many priests were ordained in secret, and hundreds were imprisoned or sentenced to forced labor by the regime, which confiscated all church property.


POPE John Paul II in Trnava, Slovakia. AFP

"In the 1950s, I saw how they beat up a priest in a park. That was terrible," said Maria Dolinska, 89, a retiree in Bratislava.

"There were people who could not have their children baptized and had to go out of the city and have them baptized at smaller villages. Many people suffered."

Among them were the bishop and nun being beatified Sunday in what the Vatican intended both as a solemn reminder of oppression and a triumphant celebration of the church's ability to endure and even thrive. Today, nearly seven in 10 of Slovakia's 5.4 million people are Catholics.

John Paul has touched repeatedly on the theme during his visit, expressing delight at the progress of the Slovak church "after the dark days of persecution and silence."

The Polish-born Pope's fierce anti-communism stance is credited with helping to end communist rule across Eastern Europe.

Both Bishop Hopko and Sister Schelingova personify the horrors inflicted on the church in the 1950s by the communists, who seized power in 1948.

Hopko was placed under house arrest and eventually spent 13 years behind bars. When his remains were exhumed in the 1970s, toxicology tests confirmed suspicions that his tormentors had poisoned him with arsenic for years. AP

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110 dead or missing in most powerful storm to hit S. Korea

SEOUL—South Korea's most powerful typhoon on record left at least 110 dead or missing, knocking down buildings, smashing ships and triggering floods that forced 25,000 from their homes.

Rescuers were desperately trying to reach a dozen people trapped in a karaoke bar in the southern city of Masan, where eight bodies had been found so far.

Typhoon Maemi, or "cicada" in Korean, tore into southern parts of the peninsula on Friday night, packing record winds of up to 216 kph (134 mph) and crunching everything in its path before heading out to sea on Saturday.

Thousands of soldiers and rescue workers were searching for the missing, helping repair roads and transmission towers, and distribute relief supplies, an official at the National Disaster Prevention Council told Reuters.

A council official said the toll had risen to 85 dead and 25 missing people by Sunday afternoon.

"The death toll is likely to rise further as the rescue teams still report dead bodies floating on the rivers and the oceans," Shin Sang-yong, an official at the council told Reuters.

The typhoon mauled South Korea's main port of Pusan, one of Asia's busiest, but did not affect the capital, Seoul.

"I can feel what it's like becoming a real beggar in one day and how that can happen," said Lee Ok-ja, a housewife in Pusan.

Television footage showed giant container cranes twisted into pretzel shapes, a row of shredded seaside shops, overturned cars floating down streets turned into rivers and buckled roads and bridges.

President Roh Moo-hyun was touring typhoon-hit areas on Sunday, the presidential Blue House said. The government said it would allocate 1.4 trillion won ($1.20 billion) in disaster relief.

Electric signs showered sparks over pedestrians hunched under blown-out umbrellas on flooded streets.

The disaster office said most of the deaths were due to electrocution, landslides and drownings.

Tidal waves heaved an evacuated cruise liner onto its side on a beach in Pusan, South Korea's second-largest city.

"The typhoon landed when the tide was full, causing even bigger damages," Choi Myong-sun, a fisherman, told local television. "The typhoon was so strong that our preventive steps were not useful at all." In Masan, sea water flooded into the basement of a shopping centre, Kang Meyong-hwan, a Masan city official told Reuters.

Rescuers had been unable to contact the 12 or so people thought to be trapped in the karaoke bar there, he said.

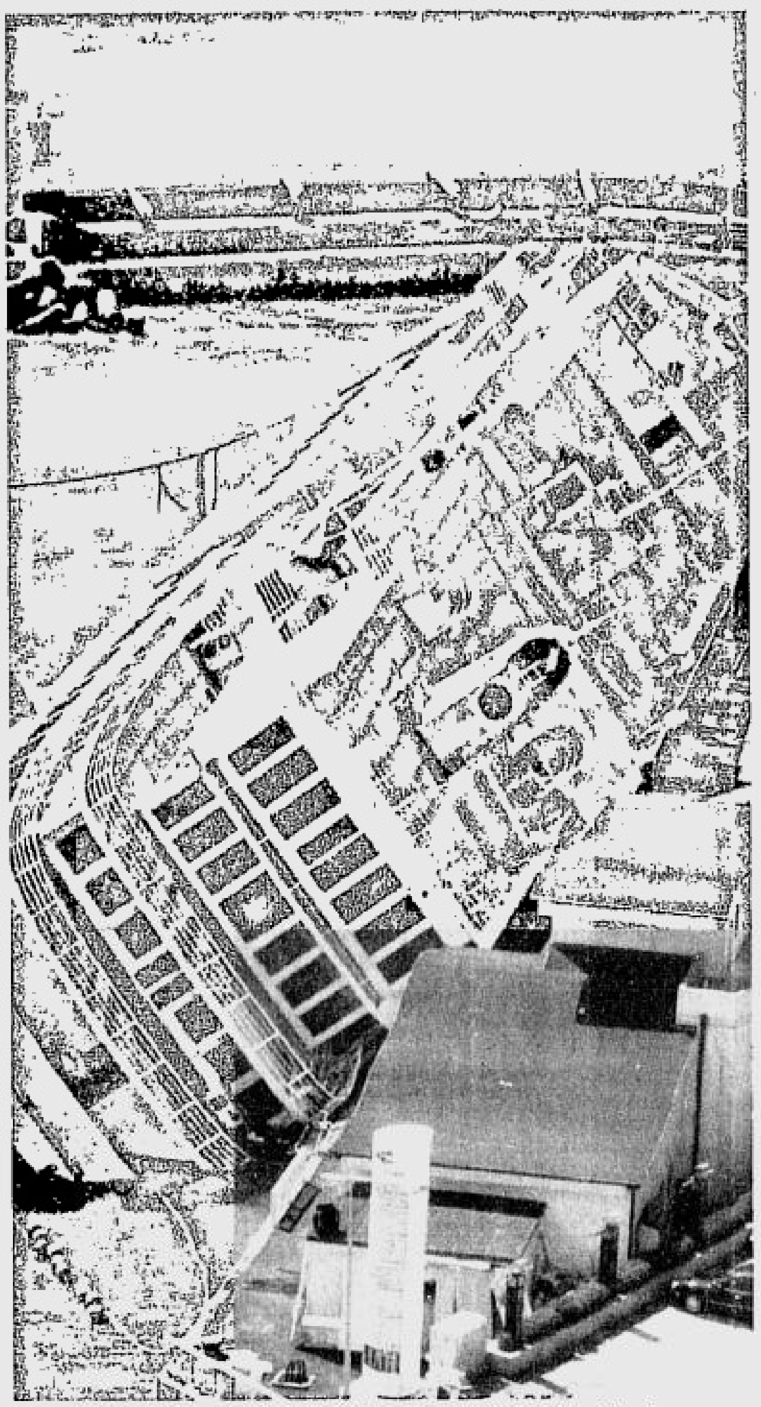
The storm knocked down 1,000-tonne cranes and tossed boats against each other. At least 82 vessels sank in huge seas and fishing boats were stacked like driftwood on shore roads.

The typhoon halted operations at four nuclear power plants, cutting electricity to 1.4 million homes, as the country celebrated the three-day Thanksgiving festival of Chusok. Power had been restored to all but 140,000 homes by Sunday afternoon.

Up to 453 mm (17.8 inches) of rain was dumped across some areas. Authorities issued flood warnings along the Nakdong river, which flows through the centre and south of the country, as overflowing dams had to open floodgates.

About 25,000 people had to be evacuated, the disaster office said.

Reuters



A SHIP that has been converted into a hotel lies on its side after typhoon Maemi pounded the southern port city of Pusan, about 450km southeast of Seoul, September 13. REUTERS

Killing Arafat an option, says Israel vice premier

JERUSALEM—Israel's vice premier said on Sunday killing Palestinian President Yasser Arafat was an option in its threat to "remove" him as an obstacle to peace.

"Killing (him) is definitely one of the options," Ehud Olmert, a mainstream member of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's cabinet, told Israel Radio.

"We are trying to eliminate all the heads of terror, and Arafat is one of the heads of terror," Olmert said.

Palestinian chief peace negotiator Saeb Erekat said in response: "This is the thinking and action of the mafia—not a government." Israel's security cabinet decided to "remove" Arafat after two suicide bombings killed 15 Israelis on Tuesday, the latest surge of violence in a three-year-old Palestinian uprising for statehood. But it did not say when it would move against him.

The vague wording left room for several options, including exiling, isolating or killing Arafat—a proposal which media reports said hardline Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz raised but Sharon shot down.

The Israeli threat sparked an international outcry, with Washington—Israel's main ally—joining in a chorus of calls not to expel Arafat, a veteran symbol of Palestinian aspirations for independence.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians rallied on Saturday in support of Arafat, many vowing to sacrifice their lives at his battered headquarters in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

Arafat, effectively confined to the "Muqata" compound for the past 21 months by Israeli army roadblocks and patrols in Ramallah, addressed them via cell phone hookup, proclaiming support for a "peace of the brave."

With US backing, Israel blames Arafat for fomenting militant violence—a charge he denies—and calls him an obstacle to peace.

Arafat said on Saturday he was still committed to a US-backed "road map" to Palestinian statehood by 2005, a plan that seems dead in the water following the recent bloodshed.

Israel's Maariv newspaper reported on Sunday that Avi Dichter, chief of the Shin Bet domestic security service, said in internal discussions it would be better to kill Arafat rather than expel him.

Dichter, the report said, believes Arafat's death would have a short-term effect, touching off protests in the Palestinian territories that would last only several weeks, whereas exile would return him to the world stage and win him sympathy.

The issue also mired Palestinian efforts to end a political crisis. Prime Minister-designate Ahmed Qurie has delayed plans to name a cabinet to replace that of Mahmoud Abbas, a moderate who quit accusing Arafat and Israel of undermining him.

Reuters

WorldBriefs

New WTO plan draws fire from rich, poor

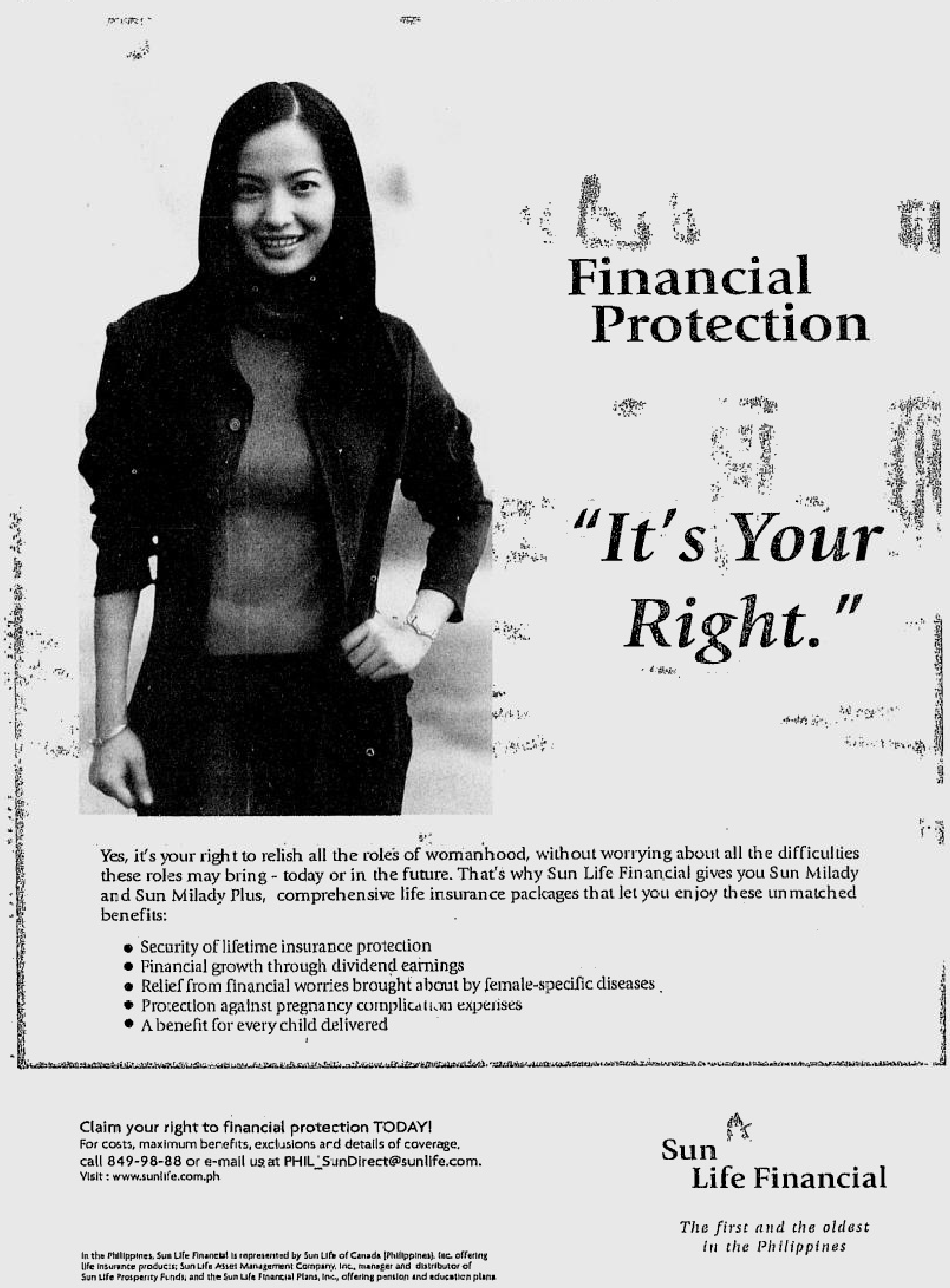
CANCUN, Mexico—The chairman of world trade talks proposed a compromise deal on the key sticking point of farm subsidies on Saturday but poor countries said it was too soft on the rich world and warned of a stalemate. Almost all sides found something to complain about in the plan drawn up by Mexican Foreign Minister Luis Ernesto Derbez at the World Trade Organization talks in the Caribbean beach resort of Cancun. Poor and developing nations said the proposal did not put enough pressure on the United States and the European Union to slash the massive subsidies they give their farmers. But the EU was also unhappy, saying it was being asked to do too much and was not getting much in return. *Reuters*

Iran threatens to end ties with IAEA

VIENNA— As pressure mounted on Iran to prove it had no secret atomic weapons program by Oct. 31, Tehran warned it might follow North Korea's lead and quit the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Following intense US lobbying for action against Iran, the 35-nation governing board of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) passed a resolution on Friday demanding Iran answer all outstanding questions about its nuclear program. The resolution implies that if the IAEA still has doubts about Iran's atomic program in November, its board might declare Iran in breach of international obligations and report it to the UN Security Council for possible economic sanctions. Approval of the resolution ignited the wrath of Tehran. Iran's ambassador to the IAEA in Vienna, Ali Akbar Salehi, said it showed Washington intended to invade Iran as it had Iraq. *Reuters*

'Sheep' of death

SYDNEY—Australia has offered to give away 57,000 live sheep to an unnamed country in the Middle East after Saudi Arabia rejected the shipment on health grounds, Trade Minister Mark Vaile said Sunday. Animal rights activists had demanded the sheep be put down, claiming 3,400 of them had died after being stranded for five weeks in searing temperatures on the vessel dubbed the "ship of death." Saudi Arabia refused to take the sheep last month after veterinarians found 6 percent of the sheep were suffering from the disease scabby mouth. *AFP*



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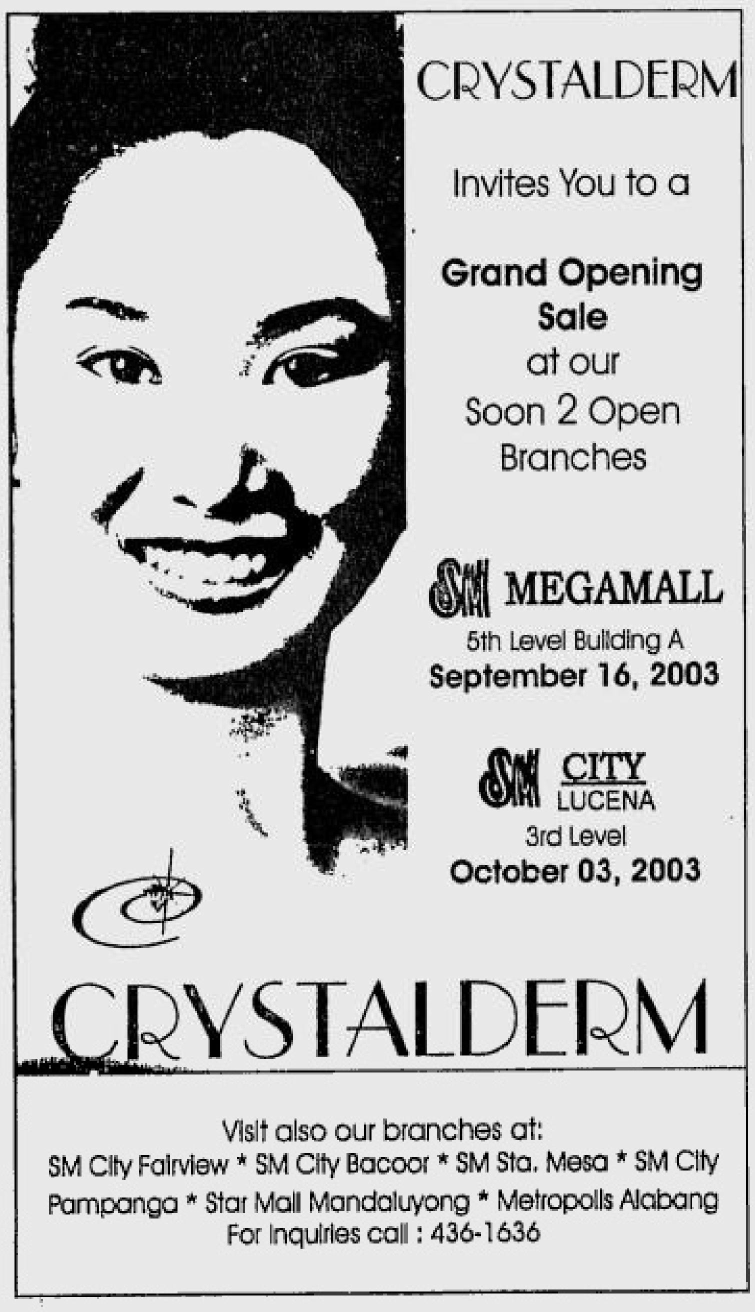

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Mayor survives third slay attempt

PARANG, Maguindanao—For the third time this year, former Army colonel-turned-politician Mayor Vivencio Bataga survived an attempt on his life since he became the chief executive of this town.

But his police escort was wounded when one of the three 60mm mortars with trigger mechanism went off as he and his wife were to attend a Sunday Mass here.

SPO3 Nonong Ubas, Bataga's escort, sustained shrapnel injuries on his legs following a 6:45 a.m. explosion in front of the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church.

The blast did not prevent the mayor and his wife from attending the 7 a.m. Mass along with the town's parishioners.

"My political enemies are my suspects, they have done this before," Bataga told Church-run Radio dxOL-FM.

"Mind you people, you will not succeed, your foolishness will go back to your body," he told his attackers.

Three mortars were planted six feet apart leading to the entrance of the church. Attached to it were trigger mechanisms composed of hand-held radio and battery-operated devices.

Army bomb experts later detonated the two 60mm mortars.

Ubas was walking to the left of Bataga's wife when the explosion occurred.

"If not for Ubas, my wife or myself would have been seriously wounded," the mayor, a former Army battalion commander, said.

Police invited one suspect for questioning after he was seen holding a wire that appeared to be the trigger device as Bataga and his escorts approached the church compound.

Bataga survived the second attempt on his life on Sept. 4 while he was heading for home on board a vehicle. Two rocket propelled-grenades were fired by still unidentified men at Bataga's vehicle but missed him.

Two women walking on the roadside were slightly injured in that late afternoon blast.

The ambush scene was about 100 meters away from the town hall and the police station.

In April, nine persons were wounded, including Bataga and his escorts when a homemade explosive device attached to a parked motorcycle went off at the town's public market.

Bataga believed the explosive was meant for him.

Other than his political enemies, Bataga also suspected drug syndicates operating in Parang as responsible in Sunday's attack.

"I will not be cowed by your attempt, the more I will continue fighting drugs syndicates," the tough talking mayor said, urging local residents to remain calm and help police identify the suspects.

Bataga said some of his political opponents wanted him out of Parang because of his no-nonsense campaign against illegal drugs.

"Some of my political enemies are probably into drugs so they want me dead," Bataga said, adding that he has the information who these people are. *Edwin O. Fernandez and Rosa-May de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

PMA probe of drowned female cadet leads to PE instructors

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—The investigation into the drowning of a female Philippine Military Academy cadet has led to the PMA's physical education instructors.

Officials here said they want to determine why their PE instructors failed to detect the absence of the late Fourth Class Cadet Mary Rose Nabong, 21, who drowned at the PMA pool during a swimming practice on Sept. 8.

Maj. Gen. Edilberto Adan, PMA superintendent, had suspended the swimming trials of the academy's ongoing intramurals, as both the PMA and the Baguio City Police Office pursued their independent investigations.

Nabong had been training at the PMA's 25-meter long swimming pool, with 34 other cadets as they prepared for the swimming competition.

Her body was recovered at about 5:30 p.m. on Sept. 8, some three hours after the team began their laps, and only after a roll-call for that evening's dinner at the mess hall detected her absence.

"We still have not detected any evidence that there was foul play (in Nabong's death) ... The initial autopsy indicated a heavy concentration of calcium (in her blood), (which suggests that) she had suffered cramps. I am not saying that (information) is conclusive. We are still waiting for her tissue test results from Camp Crame," Adan said.

PMA professors here have been trying to piece together the details surrounding Nabong's death, "because we do not understand why she was left alone on the pool that day," an instructor told the INQUIRER.

"We have talked to (Nabong's) buddy, a third class cadet, but we were told Nabong's buddy was not a member of the swimming team and was not around when the accident occurred. We are now interested in how the (Department of Physical Education) manages the swimming pool," the instructor said.

Maj. Edgard Arevalo, PMA spokesperson, confirmed that the academy's investigation is now focusing on their PE instructors, but he stressed that the academy was not after the instructors' likely criminal liability for Nabong's death.

"We need to find out if there are liabilities, or if there are (people who may be) accountable ... We need (to see whether) there are other policies in (managing) the swimming pool which we should be doing. If there is a better safeguard against cadets accidentally drowning, we will implement it, although safeguards are already in place. We cannot always foresee these accidents," he said.

Nabong was discovered at the bottom of a 12-foot deep section of the pool, which is used to train cadets in scuba diving techniques.

Nabong's body was shipped back to Samar last week. Her parents have been avoiding the media, and had not indicated that they would pursue any legal action against the PMA. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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STOP KILLING JOURNALISTS

JOURNALISTS wear red armbands asking a stop to the killing of journalists during a march rally Thursday in Davao City. RYAN LIM

Pala continues to be heard on air

DAVAO CITY—Slain broadcaster and former councilor Juan "Jun" Pala's voice continues to be heard in dxGO every morning.

Radio station manager Raul Antipuesto, said this will go on "as long as justice is denied" from Pala.

Pala was killed in an ambush in a subdivision here last week.

Hundreds of listeners continue to send text messages of sympathy to the family and relatives of Pala, Antipuesto said.

The management of dxGO, he said, has decided to replay Pala's program every morning "to hound the conscience of the perpetrators." *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

50-year ban on mining proposed in North Samar

By Vicente S. Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The Northern Samar provincial board is drafting an ordinance that will ban for 50 years any mining operation in the province.

Northern Samar Vice Gov. Guido Lavin Jr. said a technical group is now preparing the draft of the ordinance that they hoped to finalize before the end of the year.

Lavin said the proposed ordinance stemmed from the clamor of many environmentalist groups and concerned people in the province who want to protect and conserve the environment.

Speaking during the meeting of about 80 partners in the implementation of the Samar Island Biodiversity Project (SIBP) on Thursday in Borongan, Eastern Samar, Lavin said municipal governments would be encouraged to form environmental watch groups to generate mass support in environmental protection, rehabilitation and management, he said.

The province will also "use its resources to defend and protect Batag Island or any part of the province for any future mining operations," Lavin said.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau has earlier issued to the Panapino Mining Corp. a Mineral Production Sharing Agreement covering 2,389.50 hectares in Batag Island.

Batag residents are reportedly opposed to any mining activity in their island, which is located in Laoang, Northern Samar.

During the same gathering, it was proposed that similar ordinances declaring a mining moratorium in Samar Island should be passed in other provinces as well as at the municipal and barangay levels.

One of the reasons cited in pushing for a mining ban was that mineral extraction might adversely affect the headwater of at least 25 major river systems in Samar Island that drain out to the coastal area of the three Samar provinces.

But during the same gathering, Samar 2nd District Rep. Antonio Eduardo Nachura revealed that some of their colleagues in Congress are pushing for the passage of an alternative bill that would allow mining operations inside the Samar Island Natural Park (SINP).

This alternative bill would excise around 54,000 hectares from the SINP for mining activities, he said.

Nachura together with Representatives Reynaldo Uy (1st District, Samar), Marcelino Libanan (lone District, Eastern Samar), Harlin Abayon (1st District, Northern Samar), Romualdo Vicencio (2nd District, Northern Samar) and Eduardo Veloso (3rd District, Leyte), chair of the house committee on environment, have authored House Bill 4764, which seeks the establishment of the SINP as a protected area.

Nachura lamented that congressmen who are not Samareños are trying to dictate what to do in Samar when it should be legislators from Samar who should be listened to for they represent the voice of the people in the three Samar provinces.

Nachura assured those present during the meeting that he and the other Samar congressmen would strongly oppose the passage of the alternative SINP bill and at the same time push for the approval of the HB 4764.

The meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Borongan, hosted by Bishop Leonardo Medroso, was held after President Macapagal-Arroyo signed on Aug. 13 Proclamation No. 442, declaring the 333,300-hectare SINP as a protected area and the successful island-wide "Save Samar's Environment" caravan last Aug. 8.

Bishop Angel Hobayan of the Diocese of Catarman (Northern Samar), Bishop Jose Palma of the Diocese of Calbayog (Samar), Presidential Assistant for Eastern Visayas Victor Domingo, Trade and Industry Regional Director Cynthia Nierras, and Oscar Francisco of the National Anti-Poverty Commission were among those who attended the Borongan meeting.

Also present were Mayor Melchor Nacario of Calbiga, Samar, president of the Samar mayors' league; and Mayor Elito Dapulag of Mondragon, Northern Samar, president of the Northern Samar mayors' league.

DENR pulls out of logging 'hot spot'

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources have ordered the pullout of DENR personnel from an upland village in Dupax del Sur town, citing threats to forest rangers who were tasked to stop the smuggling of forest products from the area.

On Friday, the provincial multi-sectoral forest protection council endorsed the transfer of the DENR base from Barangay Talbec to an Army detachment in Barangay Gen. Luna in Carranglan, Nueva Ecija, about 20 km away.

Romualdo Villador, community environment officer, said his men were under serious threat to allow the illegal shipment of narra from Barangays Pelaway and Cawayan in nearby Alfonso Castañeda town.

Villador cited Tuesday's shooting and wounding of volunteer forest ranger Roberto Babida, 36, after DENR personnel refused to allow the shipment of narra from the villages within the primary impact zone of the Casecnan Multi-Purpose Irrigation and Power Project (CMIPP). Babida suffered from a bullet wound in the chest.

"We fear for the lives of our men, and we will not wait for that moment when one of us would sacrifice his life at the hands of these timber poachers," Villador said.

The forests covered by the impact zone, the domain of the Bugkalot tribe, were earlier declared "hotspots" by the DENR due to unabated cutting of hardwood species in recent months.

Villador expressed concern over the growing tension among DENR personnel, Bugkalot tribesmen and narra traders following a DENR crackdown on illegal logging that resulted in the seizure of about 60 cubic meters of narra lumber and flitches in July.

The shipment became the subject of controversy last month after Bugkalot men, some of whom were reportedly armed with *bolos* and guns, stopped a DENR retrieval team from confiscating these despite a court order.

Villador said the DENR base in Talbec was "highly vulnerable" to possible armed attacks.

Roberto Apigo, provincial environment chief, said a team of DENR personnel in Nueva Ecija, Army soldiers and other environment groups would be stationed in the new checkpoint in Barangay Gen. Luna. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Gunrunner arrested

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Police arrested a suspect allegedly involved in smuggling and manufacture of illegal guns and ammunition. The suspect, Roberto Rosul, 43, was arrested inside his house in Sitio Pogi, Barangay San Miguel Mojica, Mendez, Cavite, police said. Confiscated from Rosul were several long firearms, shotguns, hand grenade and bullets.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Cavite cop slain

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—At least three unidentified gun men shot dead on Monday a police officer in Barangay Banay-banay in Amadeo, Cavite, police said yesterday. SPO1 Edgardo Liachon, 40, of Barangay Halang and a member of the Cavite Provincial Mobile Group, had just left his house on board his Mitsubishi Galant car to report for work when the gunmen opened fire at his car along a secluded road, police said. After making sure that Liachon was dead, one of the suspects took his M-16 Armalite and a .45 cal pistol. Cavite police director Senior Supt. Roberto Rosales said police are investigating personal grudge as the motive for the killing.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Suspected pushers nabbed

BACACAY, Albay—Two suspected drug pushers were arrested in separate raids here and in Tabaco City. Police arrested Flordeliza Deza-Barja, 36, at Purok 3, Barangay Baclayon and confiscated from her four small sachets of methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu) and three empty sachets with residues of the illegal drug. In Tabaco City, police arrested a certain Aldrin Bella, 20, resident of Barangay San Roque in a buy-bust operation. The suspect yielded two small sachets of shabu.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Rebels kill farmer

TABACO CITY—Suspected New People's Army rebels killed a farmer in Barangay Oras. Antonio Barrameda was in his house at around 10 a.m., Tuesday when three unidentified armed men shot him at close range. Barrameda suffered four bullet wounds in the body and did not reach the Cope General Hospital alive. A report said the NPA suspected Barrameda as military informer.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Farmer slain

PALAUIG, Zambales—Armed men gunned down a farmer while he was watching television in his neighbor's house in Barangay San Vicente here on Wednesday. Police said Roger Aguna, 31, succumbed to multiple bullet wounds. Five empty shells of M16 rifle were recovered from the crime scene. Investigators have yet to ascertain the motive of the killing. ***Allan Macatuno and Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Robber killed

SANTIAGO CITY—Guards shot and killed a suspected robbery gang leader and wounded two others who were about to open the cash vault of a marketing firm here early Thursday. Supt. Valfrie Tabian, city police chief, said Efren de Leon of Barangay Mabini here led a group of robbers in sneaking inside the MKT Marketing, a liquefied petroleum products wholesale-retail firm. De Leon and his men tried to use an acetylene torch to open the cash vault when two security guards saw them.

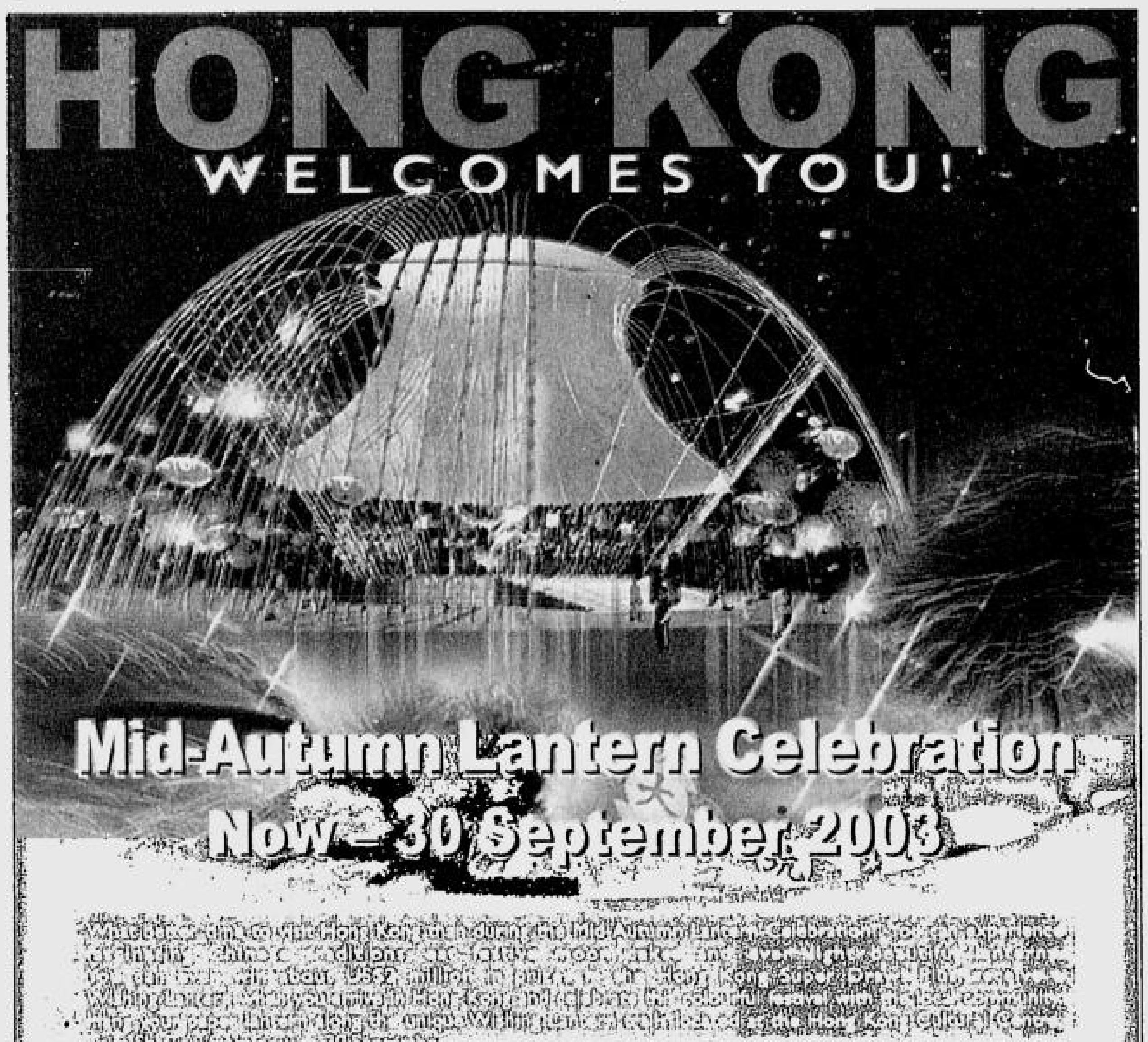
Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

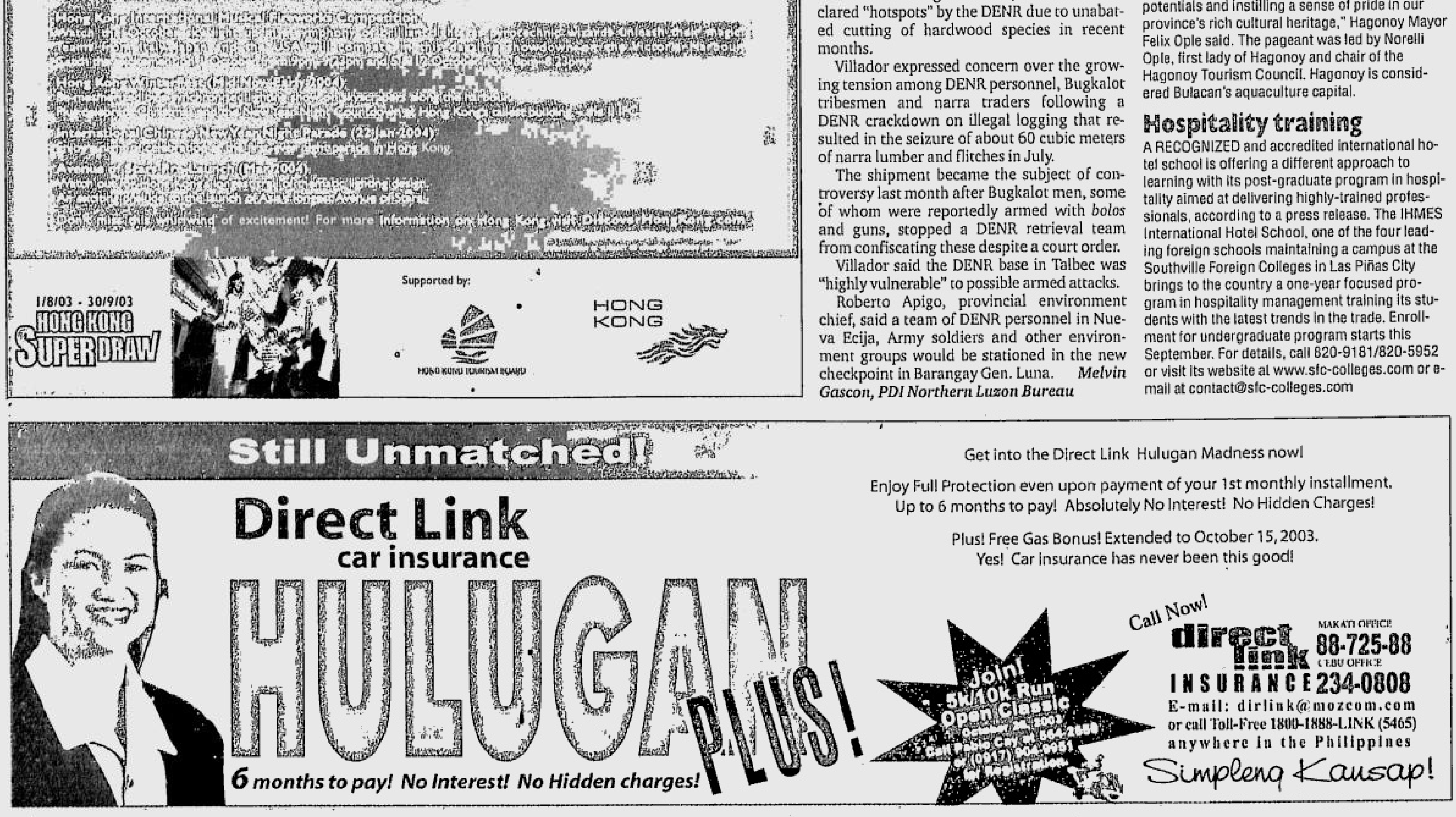
Bulacan competition

THE MUNICIPAL government of Hagonoy hosted the Search for Lakan at Lakambini ng Bulacan yesterday at the St. Mary's Academy Auditorium in Poblacion, Hagonoy. This beauty and talent competition was organized by the Bulacan Tourism Council in cooperation with the provincial government and its 22 municipalities and 2 cities. "This event seeks to empower the young people of Bulacan by harnessing their God-given potentials and instilling a sense of pride in our province's rich cultural heritage," Hagonoy Mayor Felix Ople said. The pageant was led by Norelli Ople, first lady of Hagonoy and chair of the Hagonoy Tourism Council. Hagonoy is considered Bulacan's aquaculture capital.

Hospitality training

A RECOGNIZED and accredited international hotel school is offering a different approach to learning with its post-graduate program in hospitality aimed at delivering highly-trained professionals, according to a press release. The IHMES International Hotel School, one of the four leading foreign schools maintaining a campus at the Southville Foreign Colleges in Las Piñas City brings to the country a one-year focused program in hospitality management training its students with the latest trends in the trade. Enrollment for undergraduate program starts this September. For details, call 820-9181/820-5952 or visit its website at www.sfc-colleges.com or e-mail at contact@sfc-colleges.com

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Yulos ask SC to cite 65 farmers for contempt

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE YULO-owned Sta. Rosa Realty Development Corp. (SRRDC) has asked the Supreme Court to cite for contempt 65 land reform program beneficiaries, and their lawyer, who are contesting the ownership of 254 hectares of farmland in Cabuyao, Laguna.

In a 39-page memorandum, the lawyers of the Yulos asked the Court to dismiss the farmers' second motion and also cite them in contempt of court for allegedly insulting the High Court.

"Private respondents continue to move heaven and earth, very obviously because this case involves 254.76 hectares of valuable land (the SRRDC properties) in Barangay Casile, Cabuyao, Laguna, by taking bold albeit illegal steps to overturn this Honorable Court's final decision," SRRDC lawyers said.

The farmers, beneficiaries of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program in Casile, are hoping the SC will reverse a decision of its Special First Division on Oct. 12, 2001 which set aside a Court of Appeals ruling that upheld the distribution of the land owned by the Yulo family.

But the Yulo family's lawyers claimed that the farmers belittled the SC decision with "such contemptous vehemence and highly insulting language that, under established jurisprudence, should be disciplinarily dealt with."

They also noted that the farmers even brought the case to the House of Representatives.

The Yulo lawyers said the SC should deny the second motion for reconsideration since the farmers did not raise any new argument.

"What is curious to note is that the so-called compelling reasons that private respondents used in support of their second motion for reconsideration, which refer to suspicion of graft and corrupt practices, 'division shopping,' the undesirable manner in which this honorable Court penned in its decision, the accusation against the *ponente* of the decision as consorting with the Yulos before the promulgation of the decision, and from such similar matters have not been mentioned at all in the oral argument by the private respondents," they said.

"Instead, they merely repeated the same old arguments in their previous pleadings with nothing new to say, which arguments have already been rejected clearly by this Honorable Court. Private respondents have absolutely no iota of proof in support of their contemptuous accusations against this Honorable Court," they added.

The farmers, however, have received the support of the government in their appeal.

The Office of the Solicitor General said the second motion for reconsideration should be granted because the SRRDC was not claiming the portion being declared as a watershed area, and therefore the government has full control of its disposition.

Second, the Department of Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board and the CA did not have the opportunity to assess a report of the Ecosystem Research and Development Bureau certifying that the property was a watershed area, it added.

2 soldiers, civilian slain in NPA attack in Albay

DARAGA, Albay—Two soldiers of the 901st Infantry Brigade based in Barangay Villahermosa in this town and a civilian were killed while four others were wounded in the latest attack by suspected New People's Army rebels on Friday afternoon.

Brigade spokesperson Capt. Marlon Ocfemia identified the military casualties as SSgt. Danilo Apostol, who died on the spot, and TSgt. Angelo Magdasoc from the Brigade's medical unit, who died while being rushed to Cumadcad Hospital.

The civilian casualty was identified as Jose Madelar of Barangay Cumapocapo, Pilar, Sorsogon, who was pronounced dead on arrival at the Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital (BRTTH).

Four more civilians were critically wounded when hit by stray bullets while inside the cockpit arena about 12 meters from the 901st IB camp.

In Bulacan, suspected NPA rebels attacked a farm owned by a golf course contractor in San Ildefonso town last week and burned P4-million worth of heavy equipment, police reports said.

Ocfemia also identified the civilians who are still critical at the BRTTH as Arnaldo Luna, a vendor and resident of Barangay San Ramon, this town, Jesus Florencio from Abucay, Pilar, Sorsogon, Arnold Llona and Domingo Friolo both residents of Barangay Mayon, this town.

Responding Daraga town police led by Senior Supt. Genesius Molto recovered 18 empty shells of 9MM and a slug of a .45-caliber pistol from the crime scene.

Molto said most of the victims suffered bullet wounds at the back of their bodies.

Based on eyewitnesses' accounts, the victims who were then unarmed were sporadically shot from behind by about eight heavily armed men, he said.

At about 9:05 p.m., on the same day, another group of 30 identified NPA members harassed a detachment of the 22nd Infantry Battalion in Manito, Albay.

Senior Supt. Felizardo Serapio Jr., Bulacan police director, said four armed rebels arrived at the farm of Antonio Pancho in Barangay Upig, San Ildefonso at about 9:30 p.m. on Sept. 11.

Serapio said the suspects poured gasoline on a bulldozer, water tanker and other heavy equipment in Pancho's Compound and set these on fire.

Reports said the suspects also took three radio transceivers and handheld radios from a *nipa* hut in the farm.

Serapio said no one was reported hurt in the attack.

The suspects fled aboard a tricycle. *Ronnie Lorejo and Gil Francis Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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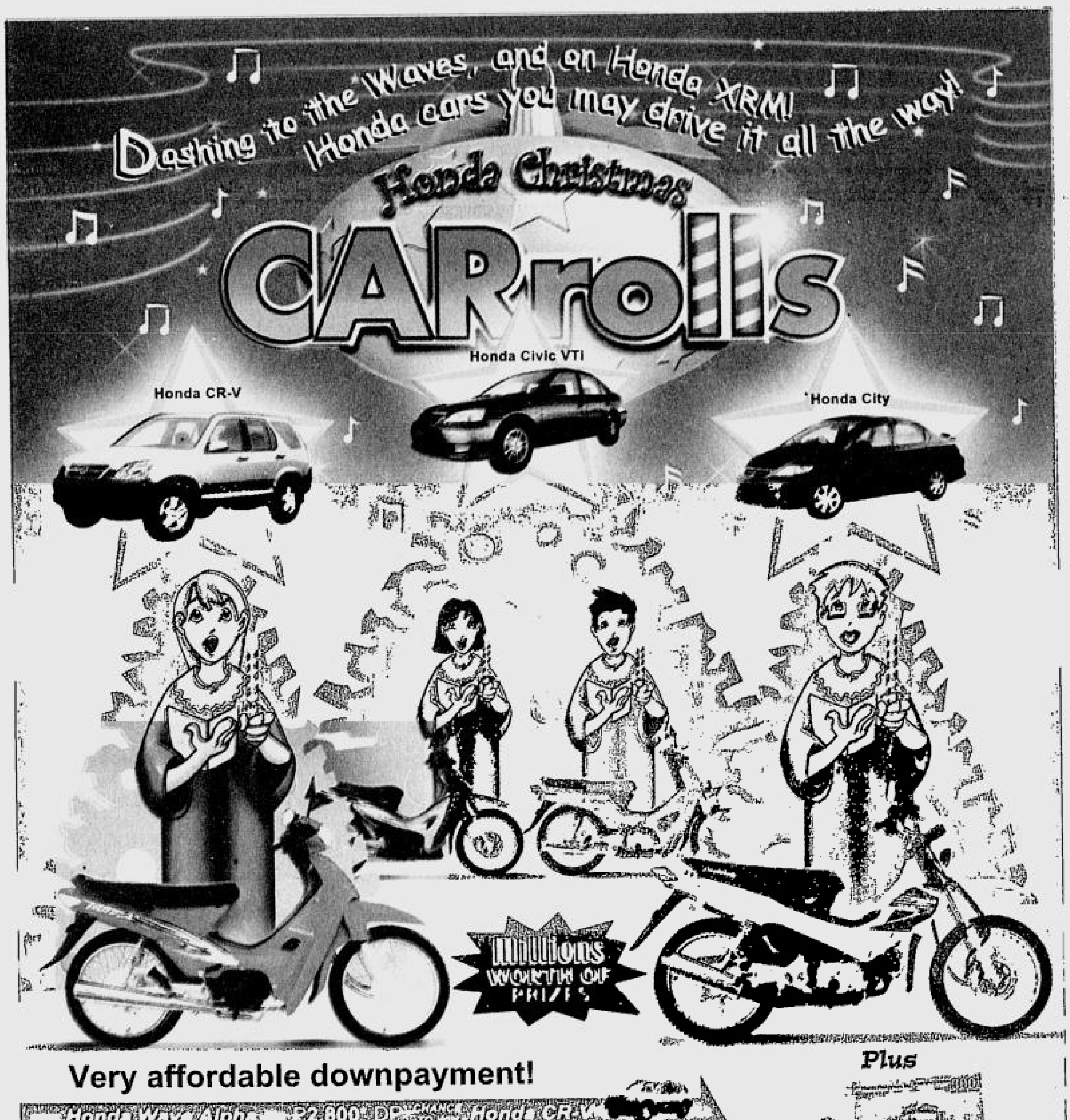

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ISSN 0116-2642
INQUIRER
Vol. 18 No. 279
OPINION
Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net
THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 /
528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
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No deal

EDITORIAL

AS OF press time, the 146 trade ministers meeting in Cancun, Mexico have failed to agree on a new free trade declaration. According to Keith Rockwell, spokesperson for the World Trade Organization, delegates are deadlocked on what by common consent is the most contentious item on the agenda: reducing government subsidies and high tariffs on agricultural products.

"Clearly if this situation persists, it will be impossible to reach agreement," Rockwell said.

This is good news for the Philippines and other developing economies, at least for the short term. "No deal is better than a bad deal," Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II, the head of the country's delegation to the Cancun talks, has been quoted many times as saying. It looks like he will get his wish.

The Philippines, as the New York Times has reported, is one of nine leaders in the so-called Group of 21, a cluster of developing countries formed only a month or so ago for a single purpose: to force the United States, the European Union and Japan to lower or remove outright over $300 billion in agricultural subsidies. For the G-21 countries, a "bad deal" is defined simply enough: it is an agreement that fails to make a dent in the developed world's trade-distorting farm subsidies.

For many Filipinos, the negotiations in Cancun, a continuation of the WTO's "development round" begun in Doha, Qatar in 2001, seem a distant, even abstract concern; it certainly lacks the drama, the soap-opera quality, of the Oakwood rebellion and Jose Pidal stories.

But the future shape of the world trading system will have a greater, longer-term impact on our people's quality of life than the histrionics of misguided military officers or the PowerPoint theatrics of a presidential wannabe.

The world's biggest economies grew in the last half century because of the global expansion in trade. Some of the so-called Asian dragons and tigers also prospered because of lower barriers to trade. But many other countries (the G-21 members account for more than half the world's population) have also fallen behind, because the "playing field" presidents and economists like so much to talk about has been far from level.

Thus, the trade talks do matter, and for two main reasons. First, because the process itself is already a historic advance. "The (Doha) round of trade talks… (marks) the first time that developing country interests were placed at the center of multilateral trade negotiations." And second, because a pro-poor agreement "could produce up to $520 billion in income gains" and "would lift an additional 140 million people out of poverty by 2015."

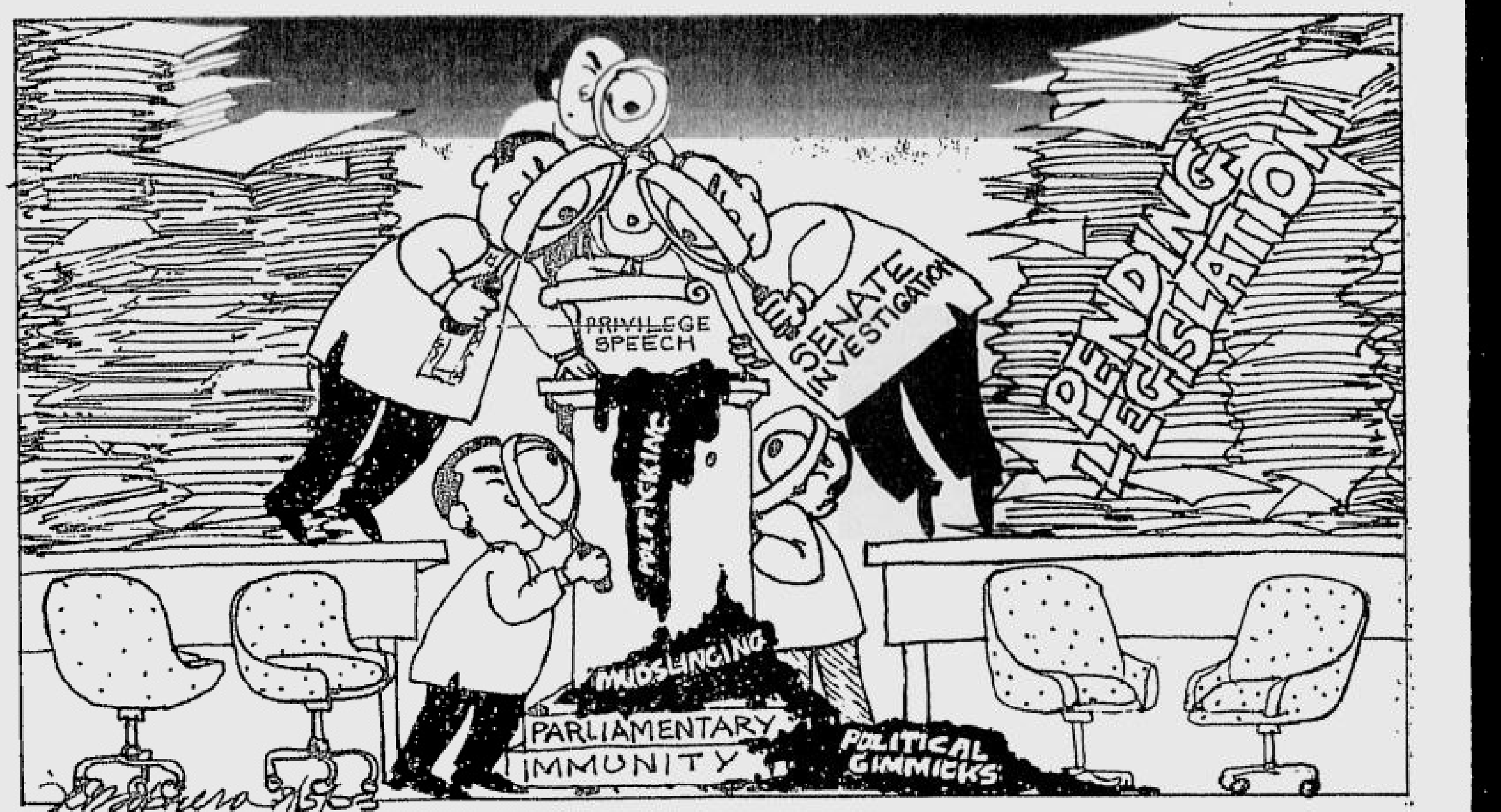
These quotes are not from a flaming radical, or from the official spokesperson of a G-21 country advocating an extreme position. They are from James Wolfensohn, the president of the World Bank. They are not off-the-cuff remarks, either, forced out during a chance interview. They come from an opinion piece Wolfensohn wrote and the World Bank circulated to newspapers around the world.

It is precisely because of unusual pressure from such mainstream institutions as the World Bank (which provides much of the economic data at the heart of the negotiations) that the debate in Cancun is no longer about whether to lower the subsidies that make, say, American cotton artificially cheaper than the West African variety. The debate is about how big the cut in the subsidies should be, and when the cutting will take place.

The other day, the Mexican hosts of the current talks proposed a compromise agreement, but the feedback from both rich and poor countries has been dismal. The proposal "has arbitrarily disregarded views and concerns expressed by us," said the commerce minister of India, one of the leading G-21 countries. "The document is very far from addressing the points we wanted," the Brazilian foreign minister complained.

But the European Union also said it found the proposal unsatisfactory, saying it already "crosses several red lines."

This much already seems certain. By sticking together and not falling apart in the face of unrelenting pressure, G-21 countries have already scored a victory. For once, the developing economies have seized the advantage. They should not fail to press it.



Complete investigation of Jose Pidal case

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WHY terminate the Senate hearings on the mysterious Jose Pidal bank accounts before they are completed? Because Sen. Panfilo Lacson, the whistle-blower, has not presented any evidence and was absent in the last hearing, they say.

Isn't that the reason for his absence: he is looking for the evidence that they are asking for?

Asking the Senate to abort its investigation now is against human nature. An innocent man falsely accused of a crime would want any investigation to be completed so that there would be no doubt about his innocence. But a guilty person afraid that the investigation may uncover evidence against him will want the hearings to be terminated as quickly as possible.

Also, a person hiding something won't want to be subjected to so many questions as he may give the wrong answers and incriminate himself. On the other hand, a person with nothing to hide and telling the truth will readily answer questions so he can prove his innocence.

And that is the reason the Senate investigation is stymied. The Arroyo brothers refuse to answer questions that would clarify many issues. If the answers to these questions would clarify things and prove a person's innocence, why would they not answer them? They wouldn't want to answer them only if they would prove their guilt.

Terminating the investigation before it is completed will only leave doubt forever as to one's innocence. Some people will think they are guilty but only got off because of a technicality or a white-wash. Isn't that the reason the prosecutors filed a petition to revive the Kuratong Baleleng case against Lacson although it has already been dismissed by the court, that the trial was not completed? Now the tables have been turned.

* * *

About this privacy thing. I am not a lawyer so my mind is not imprisoned by legal technicalities. But I do know that in law there is that principle that puts substance over technicality. And that in this Jose Pidal case, the substance is that the state's duty is to prevent the commission of a crime, or to punish the perpetrator if the crime has been committed, and the person is trying to hide behind the technicality of privacy.

Jurisprudence is clear that a person may not be a public official but he may be a public figure, and therefore subject to public scrutiny—no privacy for him. Mike Arroyo is technically not a public official but he is a public figure, being married to the President and being constantly exposed to the public eye. Iggy Arroyo is also not a public official but he is a public figure because, by claiming the controversial Jose Pidal account, he thrust himself into the public eye. In earlier cases, even society matrons who just throw parties and persons who lead public rallies, are considered public figures who cannot hide behind the cloak of "privacy."

I agree with those who say that the "privacy" sought to be protected by the Constitution refers to private correspondence and other matters of a highly personal nature. But not when a crime has been committed, or the suspicion that one has been committed exists. Precisely, it is being investigated to determine if a crime has really been committed. Isn't refusal to cooperate in investigations of this nature an "obstruction of justice"?

* * *

As to the contention that a Senate investigation is only "in aid of legislation," isn't the present investigation precisely to determine how the present laws obstruct the Anti-Money Laundering Law so the proper amendments can be legislated? Obviously, there is a conflict between two laws, the Amla and the Bank Secrecy Law. And it is precisely the duty of Congress to make the laws clear and avoid the conflict.

If the bank officials and the Arroyo brothers refuse to cooperate, how can Congress craft these amendments?

* * *

TODAY'S JOKES: What do newshens talk about when they're gathered together? Married women, President Macapagal-Arroyo and Sen. Loren Legarda in particular.

1. The newshens were asked which they would rather be, married to Mike Arroyo or to Tony Leviste?

The unanimous reply: "A widow!"

2. A number said if they were GMA they would have married Iggy instead of Mike. Mike is a user, they said, while Iggy is not only the better-looking brother but also obviously very obedient and helpful.

3. The newshens also talk of favorite songs. While Mike's favorite is "Victoria's Secret," GMA's is "Hernando's Hideaway."

4. Cheating husbands: A husband who keeps repeating the spiel "I cannot live without my wife," is not only lying but is most likely cheating his wife.

5. Quotable quotes: "I cannot imagine a life without my wife beside me. She is my life and my heart."—Mike Arroyo.

"My life is ended."—Vicky Toh

6. Legal separation: Life won't end for Mike if he is separated from GMA. He has a whole new career ahead of him: A soap opera actor.

7. Scripts: But he should not hire the scriptwriter who wrote the spiel about life without his wife. The lines he read sounded so, ugh, artificial.

'Déjà vu'

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

HISTORY happens twice, as they say: the first time as tragedy, the second time as farce. One is tempted to quote that in the face of what is happening today in the country, which tends to repeat the Erap cycle. Except for one thing. The first time was already farce—can anything be more farcical than Erap? So you wonder what the second can be. What do you call the parody of a farce?

I was wrong when I said the "rally to defend democracy" the other Friday was the equivalent of the prayer rally Erap mounted during his last days. Turns out, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had a more literal idea in mind. That was another prayer rally last Friday in exactly the same spot Erap held his on the eve of his downfall three years ago, at the Luneta. Well, might Jose Rizal have turned in his grave: "Was this what I got shot for?"

The Greeks, too, have a saying, which is "Whom the gods wish to destroy, they first make crazy." There is a variation on that, and that is, "Whom the gods wish to destroy, they first surround with very bad advisers." GMA's handlers are so busy analyzing things, doing "alliance work" and looking for ardent expressions of support for her tottering rule that they cannot see the symbolic significance of something like this. That is to broadcast to the world the dying gasps of the fallen.

At the very least, it makes you wonder why this country is so miserable when all its leaders like to pray. The only conclusion you can reach is that prayer leads to misery. You are suddenly reminded of the friars who robbed the *indios* blind and asked them to pray afterward for their deliverance. And who led processions to appease a wrathful God who punished the country with bad harvests and worse governance.

There was no lack of irony in the prayer rally last Friday. The highest point came when GMA herself, who insists on running next year after vowing not to, prayed for God "to enlighten the ambitious" and cure them of their delusions. Indeed, when she prayed as well, after having ceded the country to George Bush and while waiting for him the way Moses waited for the Burning Bush: "Lord, by your protection, we shall not give them an inch of the people's sovereignty that they intend to usurp by force. Lord, by your grace, I have no time for pleasing despots."

Maybe God hears prayers after all.

But déjà vu, the parallels are so uncanny you wonder if we are not truly being punished with repeating history all the time for failing to read it. What drove Erap under was Chavit Singson's exposé, an exposé made by someone with not particularly endearing qualities but which nevertheless rang true. The more Erap squirmed, the deeper he fell into the bog.

What is driving GMA under is Panfilo Lacson's exposé, an exposé made by someone with less endearing qualities (the surveys say his stock isn't rising) but which nevertheless rings true. Arguably, the case has to do only with her husband, but it threatens to open a can of worms, not least to reveal the ones crawling in their properties in San Francisco. The reason GMA vowed not to run again last year was that she was already laboring under the weight of corruption charges, formal and informal. The more she squirms—Mike Defensor's defense, or rescue, of the cell phone-toting Eugene Mahusay from his apparent captors, with the aid of the PSG is a case in point—the deeper she falls into a bog.

Well, Defensor merely abducted Mahusay. Lacson, or his men, turned Bubby Dacer into fertilizer. We are thankful for small favors.

Erap held his own rallies, with the aid of mayors and the townsfolk of San Juan and no small amount of movie stars, chief of them Fernando Poe Jr. And employed the PACC to try to intimidate opponents. His party and sundry coalition supporters united to prop him up, not least in the Senate where his favorite senators voted not to open the second envelope.

GMA has her own rallies, culminating in the prayer rally last Friday, with the aid of mayors and the townsfolk of Pampanga (though less enthusiastically) and no small amount of movie stars (though less plentifully or *sikat*). Nora Aunor will have the distinction, along with Ronaldo Puno, GMA's chief strategist, of having served three presidents with one thing in common. Those presidents are Ferdinand Marcos, Joseph Estrada and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Guess what they have in common. Never mind Ronnie, but *sayang* Nora.

Erap was insulated against reality, thinking to the last minute (on Puno's prodding), he was still in command of the country. GMA is insulated from reality, thinking to this very moment, she is still in command of the country. Erap tried to dissuade opposition to his rule by asking, "Do you want Gloria instead?" Gloria tries to dissuade opposition to her rule by asking, "Do you want putschists instead?" Erap depicted the divisiveness he himself fomented in the country as a war between the haves and the have-nots. GMA depicts the divisiveness she herself has fomented in the country as a war between the democrats and the terrorists. Well, GMA is probably right, except that she is wrong on who belongs to what.

There is one difference. Erap was the most popularly elected President of this country, GMA was the most unwanted person to succeed Erap. Yet Erap got ousted by people power.

Déjà vu.

* * *

Tonight, Sept. 15, and Saturday, Sept. 20, 70s Bistro pays tribute to protest music in Sangandaan at Mga Mapagpalayang Awitin. Aia de Leon, Myra Ruaro, Hannah Romawac and Cooky Chua breathe new life into your favorite activist songs. I don't know that protest and nostalgia go together, but you can't get any closer to it than this. Old comrades are enjoined to listen without breaking into tears. *Disiplinang bakal, mga kasama.*

Let the truth out in Senate Report 237

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

A MONTH ago, Sen. Robert Barbers, chair of the lead Senate committee on public order and illegal drugs, finally got to deliver his sponsorship speech on the much-delayed Committee Report 237, which links Sen. Panfilo Lacson to the drug-trafficking, kidnappings and similar illegal activities of the defunct PAOCTF under his leadership. Lacson sought to delay the plenary voting by seeking the report's recommitment to the three committees, on the ground that two years after hearings closed, he has fresh evidence that contradicts it. Barbers and Sen. Joker Arroyo, chair of the blue ribbon committee, immediately registered their objection to a recommitment, aware that this tactic virtually kills a report. But the chair of the third committee, national defense and security, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., sought to postpone the plenary voting on the ground that he needed to consult his committee members first. But his move provoked fears of more delay in voting on that report, which took two years for Barbers to finally sponsor, owing to the opposition's delaying tactics.

* * *

Magsaysay wrote to clarify that his committee's move last Aug. 4 was not to block debate on CR 237, but to manifest the need for consultation among its members, considering the Senate's collegial nature. Moreover, he felt this was "the more prudent reply" as records showed that only seven majority senators were present that evening, versus nine from the minority; had the voting pushed through, the majority would have lost. He explained that last Aug. 18, after due consultation with his committee members, he manifested their stand to reject recommitment. As he stated, "I cannot delay the deliberation on this issue lest the Senate be accused of censoring a matter perceived to be morally wrong. In my opinion, to retard discussion of (CR 237) is to protract injustice." Stressing that the evidence relied upon by the three committees in formulating CR 237 was "substantial and sufficient enough to justify a conclusion," Magsaysay said his judgment that the truth should be ferreted out in interpellation was shared by Senators Noli de Castro, Ralph Recto, Francis Pangilinan, Ramon Revilla, Manuel Villar and Juan Flavier.

Indeed, the citizens have been agitating that the truth about Lacson's alleged involvement in these illegal activities come out. Reading CR 237, I realize that he has a lot of explaining to do about his activities in the PAOCTF, which makes one wonder if all the muck-raking he's doing now toward Mike Arroyo is not intended to drown out the dreadful allegations in CR 237.

* * *

UP alumni following the controversy surrounding this year's elections for the UP Alumni Association (UPAA) officers for 2003-2006, may be wondering what has happened since. It has been three months since the supposedly last day for casting ballots as ordered by the RTC Branch 222, but up to now the rightful winners, the "GP 21," led by former UP Regent Nelia Gonzalez, who successfully obtained 2,000 more votes than the Upsilon-dominated "GP 23," have yet to be proclaimed. The Upsilon lineup can't seem to accept its defeat; or are there dark secrets that the yielding of power would bring out?

Because of UP's preeminence, the UPAA election controversy cries for immediate resolution. We alumni invoke the intercession of past UP presidents Jose Abueva and Emil Javier, and current president Francisco Nemenzo. The UP president and some members of the Board of Regents earlier tried to create an arbitration committee but the Upsilonians refused to submit to it, claiming they first want to count the additional ballots in whimsically stretchable deadlines.

* * *

The three-member UPAA Comelec, whose **chair, Victor Avecilla, and one member, Napoleon Vergara, are Upsilonians, questioned the court's jurisdiction over what they claim to be "intra-corporate disputes," when RTC Judge Rogelio Pizarro ordered the comelec to conduct the final tally. Prior to that, the GP 23 and the UPAA Comelec appeared before the court and submitted pleadings. The GP 23 even benefited when members of the GP 21 were prevailed upon to agree to a compromise that allowed 1,500 of the 4,300 names submitted by the GP 23 without the required application forms and signatures, to vote. But before the case could be raffled off to one of the two authorized courts, the UPAA Comelec engaged in more dilatory tactics and machinations in an apparent effort to rig the election outcome and deliver victory to their "brods."**

* * *

Claiming that there are still many others who should be allowed to vote, the comelec bought a new ballot box (charged to UPAA funds) and issued ballots to 1,016 more names on Aug. 4 that were given until Sept. 4 to cast their votes—presumably to help pare down GP 21's big lead. But the anomaly was that these additional names were part of the list of 1,700 names submitted late and already dismissed by the comelec itself in its June 9 resolution.

But since the new votes cast were not enough to overturn the Gonzalez group's 2,000-vote lead, the UPAA Comelec adopted another resolution, this time allowing members of UP Class 2002 to vote. Earlier, the comelec had already disqualified some 6,000 members of Class 2002 as their membership fees had already expired, but now that the Upsilonian GP 23 lineup is short of votes, the comelec wants the Class 2002 to vote once again until Oct. 4.

The UPAA Comelec has resorted to Marcosian manipulation of election results, even if it tarnishes the reputation of the university. UP alumni who voted in these elections should protest and refuse to recognize the holdover officers led by Eddie Hernandez, or those that the UPAA Comelec seems bent on ramming down the UPAA's throat.

'Batang bugaw'

COMMENTARY

Melanie P. Ramos
Institute on Church and Social Issues

"*GIGIMICK ako, sásama ka ba?*"—These words seem quite innocent, much like an invitation from a friend to hang out or to party. But for some street children in Manila, these words entirely mean a different thing.

To go out on a "gimmick" is another term for prostitution or to have sex in exchange for money. Many children have been lured into this dismal trade and have been used and exploited by adults. Adult pimps abound and they peddle children like wares on the streets in exchange for a few hundred pesos. While child prostitution is not a new phenomenon in our country, recent developments show a disturbing trend to this booming business. Whereas in the past only adults acted as middlemen or pimps for clients and prostitutes, street children have now been found to engage in pimping activities. "*Mga batang bugaw*" or child pimps are on the rise and they lure their peers into the miserable life of prostitution. These children are usually 14-15 years old and they can either be male or female.

There are many ways by which child pimps knowingly or unknowingly draw their peers to prostitution. An adult pimp may approach a child and ask him/her if he/she is interested in earning money and if he/she has friends who want to tag along. The child then goes to his/her friends and asks them if they want to go out on a "gimmick" where they will surely earn money. Another form is when a child pimp directly negotiates with an adult client and then asks a friend if he/she wants to join. In these arrangements, the *batang bugaw* or child pimp, the adult pimp (if he is part of the deal) and the child being prostituted will negotiate on how much each of them will get as a result of the transaction. The going rate is said to be P500 to P1,000 depending on the "services" rendered. Weekends are the most profitable days and some children are even hired for three days by foreigners and taken to resorts outside Manila for P6,000. A child who was hired under this arrangement said that the adult and the child pimps each got P500 for facilitating the deal and the rest of the money went to him.

> It is distressing to find out how these children view prostitution—how they see it as a way of life and even a means to help their peers

It seems that most of the street children who engage in pimping activities are not aware of the harm they cause. For some, prostitution is a way of life and there's nothing wrong with it—*trabaho lang ito*. It is a means to earn money to sustain their needs. Some of the *batang bugaw* say that they give clients to their friends because they also want them to earn money. They pimp their friends because they want to help them earn more income.

When children who are prostituted by their peers were asked what they thought of these arrangements, they said that they preferred to deal with the *batang bugaw* than the adult pimp. Since most of the *batang bugaw* are their friends, they are sure not to be duped or cheated of their earnings. It is also easier to transact business with child pimps because they are their friends.

It is interesting to note that the *batang bugaw* themselves also engage in prostitution. They shift their roles depending on the situation. Sometimes they give clients to their friends. Other times, they perform "services" and ask their friends to tag along. There are also instances when children prostitute each other to return a favor. If a child gives a client to his/her friend and decides not to take a cut from facilitating the transaction, the friend will also return the favor by finding a customer for his/her friend.

The activities of the *batang bugaw* are not checked because they remain inconspicuous in facilitating their trade. Whereas adult pimps can easily be identified, the *batang bugaw* are harder to spot. Who would think that a child talking to another child might actually be engaging in pimping activities? Children congregating in the streets are normal and nobody would suspect that they are conspiring to perform illicit acts. Furthermore, transactions under these circumstances are quite informal and are just made in confidence between friends.

The emergence of child pimps is indeed a cause for alarm. There have been disheartening reports that children as young as 10 years old are into this business—acting as *bugaw* for their older friends. It is distressing to find out how these children view prostitution—how they see it as a way of life and even a means to help their peers. This twisted notion could very well mean an expected increase in child prostitution in our country unless this problem is addressed. Bahay Tuluyan, a child-focused agency assisting street children is currently conducting an in-depth research on *batang bugaw* in the hope of better understanding these children. Though the research is still in the preliminary stages, one could very well predict its conclusions—there will be no easy and fast solutions to this scandal.

Survival of the holiest

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

EDUCATION Secretary Edilberto de Jesus, together with Undersecretary Fe Hidalgo and Bureau of Secondary Education Director Lolita Andrada, deserve hearty congratulations for issuing Department of Education Order No. 37 last May—the official Implementing Guidelines for the 2003-2004 Secondary Education Curriculum for public high schools.

In it, the contact time allocated to high school subjects in earth science, biology, chemistry and physics, was restored to 400 minutes per week. That time had been slashed by 25 percent to 300 minutes per week in the 2002 BEC under then Secretary Raul Roco (before he suddenly resigned to start running for President)—in effect, eliminating one year out of four in high school science. In addition, the 2002 BEC also abolished the Science subject in Grades One and Two of the public elementary schools—a 33 percent reduction in science at the elementary level—our two missing front teeth. Together, these two changes proposed by the 2002 BEC represented an overall reduction of 30 percent in the time, money and resources allocated to science study in our 10-year long public school system (6 elementary, 4 secondary). Today, I am jubilant that after a one year pilot-test period, the DepEd saw fit to restore the high school science time allocation.

But the DepEd did not restore the Grades One and Two science subjects abolished under the 2002 BEC. Formal science subjects begin only in Grade Three of the six-year public elementary school system. That is 33 percent less time, money and human resources allocated to teaching science in the public schools primary level. Can you imagine? Only four years of science study for Filipino kids in the public schools now under Gloria and Cardinal Sin, compared to six full years under Erap and Bro. Andrew Gonzalez, and all the previous administrations back to Cory Aquino!

The recent remarks of Bro. Rolando Dizon, F.S.C., former president of De La Salle University and the newly appointed chief of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) are particularly ominous: "Ninety percent of high school graduates are not ready for college-level work." Things will get even worse now because the elementary school kids entering high school will have two whole years less preparation in science.

I was dismayed and angry last year when I realized that under Gloria, Roco and Cardinal Sin, we might ironically have 30 percent less science study in the educational system than under Erap and Brother Andrew—an aggregate of a billion hours of science teaching and studying by Filipino students—abolished. It is some consolation that there will be no change at the high school level compared to the previous decade, when Filipinos studied science as a formal subject in all 10 years of our public schools.

But isn't this strange? In the post-Edsa II regime, the DepEd will only be teaching science as a curriculum subject for four years out of six in the elementary schools, compared to the decade before. Is that the miracle of people power or what? Yes. It is indeed the people power of numbers, for the part-time teachers populating a crowded Makabayan subject component count more in the political calculi than a leaner work force required in a laser-beam focused curriculum centered on mathematics, science and communication skills.

The destruction of the science program in the public elementary schools was really a victory for the religious Right and the radical Left over a more secularly oriented center. Overcrowding, that a decade of curriculum reform has been trying to eliminate may have been stuffed right back in via the mega-subject called Makabayan.

Education's budget-topping P100-billion annual budget is 90 percent salaries, with precious little left over for investment in classrooms, books, electricity, running water, feeding programs and other proven kick-starters. Public schools have become little more than aging vats and social welfare agencies with essential lending facilities for the nearly half-million teachers, who also run the polls as the heroic indentured servants of the Comelec, come voting time.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will address both the UN General Assembly and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) this month. Of course, she will not brag to the world about how she approved a 33-percent slash in overall science study in the basic elementary school system to make a strong republic. Instead, she will propose a worldwide inter-faith council for peace. What Justice Artemio Panganiban calls the monotheistic Republic of the Philippines, whose democracy has not yet even disestablished its own 400-year-old Taliban-like state religion, the state that cannot unite Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao with a government that sponsors daily Catholic Masses at most national government offices—will now propose a worldwide inter-Faith Council at the Unesco to unite the religions of the world in peace.

Our competition will be happy at our strategy in public education, born under the sign of the dodo bird—long in the tooth on moral values and nationalist ideology, woefully short on what really works. Is that the legacy that Gloria wants for about 40 million Filipino students who will go through the next 10 years of falling farther behind the rest of the world? Survival of the holiest?

(Visit my personal web log for more political incorrectness at http://deanjorgebocobo.blogspot.com/).

Naughty photos

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

BEAUTY, it has been said, is in the beholder's eye. The same theory probably applies to the photos published by the INQUIRER. They are susceptible to varying interpretations.

A reader, Rosario Billano, gave her two cents' worth about two pictures that came out in the newspaper's Sept. 10 issue. She wrote: "On the front page, together with the headline 'Bangko Sentral restricts purchase of dollars,' is a photo of Buenaventura (referring to Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura) biting his right thumb. Why did the INQUIRER use this photo instead of numerous other file photos of the governor?

"Is it because it portrayed nervousness, worry and fear? Did the INQUIRER want to project these feelings to the readers? Please don't let the editors say they had no other motive in the choice of the photo because it is very obvious.

"The headline of the article also misleads the reader at first glance. When I read the headline, I really thought that all purchases of dollars have been restricted and I became worried. Only to find out after reading the article that it was not the case at all. The item's headline should have read 'Bangko Sentral restricts local purchase of dollars.' You really made us worry needlessly.

"The other photo is on Page A20 showing President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo with MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando as if in the act of embracing. The caption said 'Gloria's BF.' I believe that in the light of present events where Sen. Panfilo Lacson has accused the First Gentleman of having an affair, the caption is inappropriate and naughty.

"It is a play on words with double meaning. We all know BF means boyfriend. At the very least, it is in bad taste. The photo has no news value. The INQUIRER loves to interpret or lace its photos with captions. Use of appropriate photos and captions is part of responsible reporting. Straight reporting only, please."

No malice

Until the reader called my attention to the two photos, I did not give them a second look when I first saw them. They did not strike me as out of the ordinary. Were the pictures conveying subtle messages?

"No, on both counts," said the managing editor. He said the file photo in question was chosen because it reflected the gravity of the problem that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas circular wants to address. To stop the peso-dollar exchange rate from further deteriorating, the Bangko Sentral prohibited Philippine residents from purchasing dollars from local sources if they would be used to buy dollar-denominated bonds.

The editor stated it would be inappropriate for the newspaper to use a photo of Buenaventura in a smiling or nonchalant pose. The readers might think the INQUIRER is making light of a serious news report or being sarcastic in its choice of photo.

With regard to the "misleading headline," the editor pointed out that it was factual. It accurately reflected the essence of the latest Bangko Sentral circular on the purchase of dollars by local residents. He explained that space constraints prevented him from adding words in the headline that will show that the restriction applies only to dollar-denominated bonds.

On the question of propriety of the use of the caption "Gloria's BF," the editor denied that there was something mischievous about it. No malice, overt or hidden, was intended in the questioned choice of words. He just wanted to put some humor in the photo.

Evaluation

On the Buenaventura file photo, I think the editor cannot be faulted for choosing the picture in question. It fitted squarely into the news report it meant to give illustration support. He has reason to be worried if the value of the peso vis-à-vis the US dollar deteriorates further. That photo captured in an instant the seriousness of the problem that the Bangko Sentral circular aims to immediately address and remedy.

I have to concede though that the headline used was rather alarmist. At first glance, it gave the impression that the Bangko Sentral has clamped down on all kinds of dollar purchases by local residents. It was as if the country had gone back to the foreign exchange controls of the 1980s when the Bangko Sentral decided on who can buy dollars from the local market and who cannot.

A close reading of the news, however, shows that the circular is not as prohibitive and encompassing as the headline seemed to convey. The specific coverage of the circular—local dollars being used to purchase dollar-denominated bonds—could have been made clear in the headline. I am sure the editors are not wanting in words that are catchy enough to get the readers' attention without going beyond the content of the underlying news report.

The headline suggested by the reader ("Bangko Sentral restricts local purchase of dollars") is, in my opinion, no different from the headline she has taken issue with. It conveys the same message. Besides, the use of the word "local" implies that the Bangko Sentral can regulate foreign exchange transactions outside of the Philippines. No, its authority is limited to our territorial boundaries.

Humor

Going to the "Gloria's BF" caption, while it may look naughty, I think it was done in the name of clean fun. Was it in bad taste? I am not convinced. It was a play on words that was meant to put the readers in a light mood. With all these depressing reports about graft and corruption, politics and terrorist activities, I am sure the readers will not mind a little humor at the expense of our government officials once in a while.

As to the news value of the photo in question, a reading of the rest of the caption will show that the picture relates to a meeting of Metro Manila mayors that the President attended the day before. Here's the complete caption: President Macapagal is welcomed by Metro Manila Chair Bayani Fernando to the MMDA main office in Guadalupe, Makati City, for an executive meeting with Metro Manila mayors.

In that meeting, the mayors and the President discussed the various problems of the metropolis. Since Metro Manila is the country's political and financial capital, a meeting of its top executives with the President has strong news value that deserves to be reported by the newspaper.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City." Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

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Questions for the SSS

ON THE OCCASION of the 46th anniversary of the Social Security System (SSS), we at the Congress of Labor Organizations (CLO), would like to know from the SSS the status and the measures undertaken regarding the investments of the system in such companies as BW Resources, Equitable PCI Bank, DM Consunji, and others that caused the financial hemorrhage of the institution and led to its requiring an increase in additional premiums from its members.

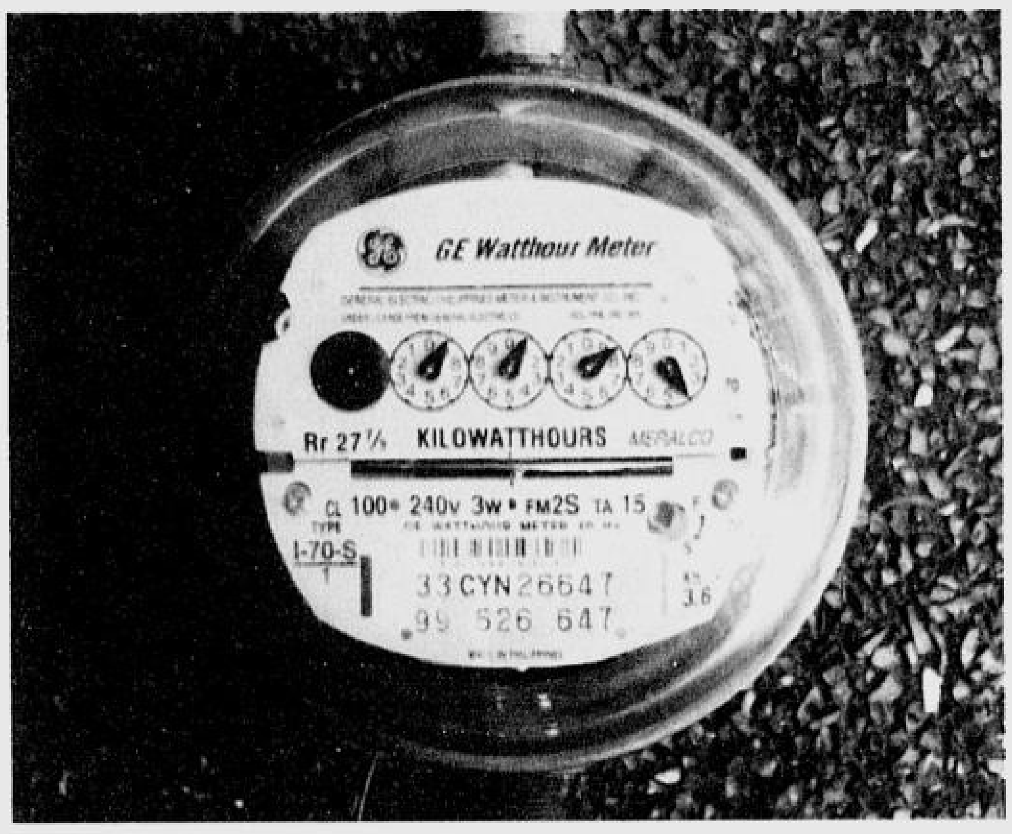
In line with the transparency policy of the government, we also would like to be clarified by the officials of the SSS on the following concerns:

In the report on the investigation conducted by the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel dated Nov. 15, 2001, there were 155 non-CES officials occupying CES positions at the SSS, contrary to law. These officials are receiving basic salaries ranging from P40,869 to P193,235 monthly. In addition, the SSS pays 20 percent of their salaries as contribution to their provident fund and gives them other benefits such as RATA, discretionary funds, 13th-month pay, bonuses, rice allowances, Christmas gifts, etc. For sure, the public would like to hear from the SSS how many of them have finally earned the required eligibility and who still haven't because they failed or simply refused to take the qualifying requirements.

Also, the SSS has established extension offices abroad. The law allows only the establishment of these offices in key cities and provinces within the Philippines. Of the 16 existing overseas extension offices, reliable reports show that except for one (in Hong Kong), revenues generated from these offices are far less than the expenses incurred, yet, there is no effort exerted by the SSS to close these offices.

Finally, the financial statements of the SSS show that administrative expenses far exceed the legal ceiling of 12 percent of total revenue. The public, particularly SSS members, demands justification why the SSS has to violate its charter on this particular issue.

—DANILO C. ISIDERIO,
deputy secretary general,
Congress of Labor Organizations, Unit D,
4/F EU State Tower,
30 Quezon Ave., Quezon City



Junk Napocor-Meralco settlement

THE FREEDOM from Debt Coalition (FDC) urges the Napocor Board, the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp., and the Energy Regulatory Commission to disapprove the unjust settlement agreement forged between Meralco and the National Power Corp. last July 15, 2003, under which Meralco has to pay Napocor a net amount of P20 billion. The agreement explicitly states that this amount will be recovered from the consumers.

This agreement punishes the hapless consumers who have long suffered from high electricity rates. Why penalize us, consumers, when we were not party to the contracts entered into by Meralco? We were not consulted about these expensive power contracts of Meralco with its independent power producers (IPPs), much less did we agree to these power contracts.

Ironically, instead of penalizing the offender, Meralco, the settlement agreement rewards it. The distribution utility stands to gain from the agreement while consumers are the clear losers.

This agreement is another proof of how convenient it is for Meralco to break contracts at the expense of the consumers. Meralco's actions have greatly contributed to making our electricity rates the second highest in Asia.

While the government and Meralco have repeatedly announced that they want to bring down electricity costs, their actions speak otherwise. The government, having the majority share in Meralco, should show resolve in truly bringing down the cost of electricity. It must thoroughly review the contracts of Meralco and work toward reducing its costs but not at the expense of the consumers.

We call on the Board of Directors of Napocor, PSALM, and ERC to disapprove this lopsided settlement agreement. Instead, it should compel Meralco to reduce its rates by bringing down the cost of its IPP contracts.

—ANA MARIA R. NEMENZO.
president,
Freedom from Debt Coalition,
34 Matiaga St.,
Central District, Quezon City

Clarifying 'misuse' of RSBS funds

DURING the July 27 Oakwood incident, one concern raised by the mutineers was the alleged misuse of the Retirement Separation and Benefits Services (RSBS) pension funds. Unfortunately, the complete facts were not presented such that the reports portrayed me unfavorably even before a trial on the merits of the alleged misuse could be started in a court of law.

The reported case involves the San Lorenzo South housing project of the RSBS located in Santa Rosa, Laguna. In 1995, its property inventory neared exhaustion. Since the RSBS hoped to sustain its income from real estate operation, it had to pre-position operations in a sizeable area with potentials for profitability. The best offer received covered 600 hectares at the boundaries of Calamba, Laguna, and Laurel and Tanauan in Batangas.

To provide access to this 600-hectare area, a 22-hectare property was found as ideal for right of way to the proposed project. It fronts the national highway in Barangay Makiling, Calamba, Laguna, just beside the Yakult property. The acquisition cost was P1,500 per square meter or a total of P341,343,000, as approved by the RSBS Board of Trustees. The prevailing market price at the time for adjoining areas was P1,800-P3,000 per sq m, according to independent appraisers.

The RSBS paid P341,343,000 to the seller. However, the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee, in its November 1998 hearings, discovered that what the seller registered at the Office of the Register of Deeds was only P91,024,800, or a difference of P250,318,200. As RSBS president, I was unfairly charged to have profited from this difference.

The RSBS, as authorized by its Board of Trustees, acquired the property at the approved acquisition cost. This is the same amount paid to and actually received by the seller, as evidenced by bank checks issued and disbursement vouchers signed. Thus, the alleged misappropriation of RSBS funds never happened.

The reported "misappropriation" was the result of unilateral action on the part of the seller when he did not register the correct acquisition cost with the Register of Deeds. Under our contract, the seller was obliged to register the property in the name of RSBS and pay all corresponding taxes. I never signed the deed of absolute sale nor did I, as RSBS president, participate in its registration. Until that Senate committee hearing, I had no knowledge of the circumstances of registration or of a different amount filed by the seller with the register of deeds.

—JOSE S. RAMISCAL JR.,
brigadier general, AFP (ret.),
58 Sixth Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City

National debt vs terrorism

ON SEPT. 11, 2001, I was in the middle of the "Run for Life, Drop the Debt" in Australia. I had run through Brisbane, Darwin, Adelaide, Hobart and was slowly inching my way to Sydney where the run was scheduled to end on Oct. 1, 2001.

The boat people issue stole much attention from this important run, which was really an appeal to Australia to drop or forgive part of the Philippines' whopping $90 billion in national and international debt. Australian Prime Minister John Howard had stepped up a campaign against the boat people, who were given the discriminatory tag of "cue jumpers" or illegal aliens. In spite of the atmosphere of hostility toward the boat people, who were mostly from Indonesia, I continued my run with grade school, high school and college Australian students to make them aware of how domestic and international debt oppresses and impoverishes developing nations. Then came the 9/11 attacks.

Understandably, attention shifted from the "cue jumpers" to the "terrorist attacks on America." Then quickly, like a boomerang, the attention swung back from the terrorist attacks on America to the "cue jumpers" who (according to some commentaries aired on the Tri-Media) could be joined by terrorist elements. It became worse for the boat people seeking asylum. Many conscientious Australians were defiant and protested the growing discrimination and racism.

Back home, our President Macapagal-Arroyo was the first to throw support behind President George Bush's campaign against international terrorism. Attention suddenly shifted to the Muslim community who "may have links with al-Qaida's Bin Laden."

Two years later today, many still try to divide the world between terrorists and anti-terrorists, between friends of democracy and the enemies of America.

The neat demarcation between the good and the bad, terrorists and anti-terrorists, paints a most orderly world through the supposedly unbiased eyes of experts. But the reality of a disorderly world and its causes is hardly explained away by the magic wand of international terrorism. The world in the hands of America and her allies is far from orderly.

A greater part of the world is in debt. The WB-WTO among others, wields nearly absolute power over the indebted countries, including the Philippines. Countries continue to borrow and sink deeper into indebtedness. How much more has our debt of $90 billion ballooned under President Macapagal's administration? How pitifully are the world and its diverse peoples made to believe the simplistic and fantastic myth of an orderly world or a world order under the Coalition of the Willing?

Indeed, willingness in such a "world" has a price. The willing continue to pay whether they like it or not.

Sept. 11, 2001 is history but the campaign against terrorism continues.

—FR. ROBERTO P. REYES,
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish, Camarin cor. Legaspi Streets,
Project 4, Quezon City

Smoke belchers are a threat to life

THE INQUIRER reported on Aug. 21, 2003 that in 1999, popular singer Carol Banawa's father and brother suffered from carbon monoxide poisoning at SM Megamall while sleeping inside their car with the engine and air conditioner turned on. Her brother died instantly and her father remains in a very critical condition with brain injury.

People's ignorance and the government's lack of concern for the safety of the public against pollution and carbon monoxide poisoning will continue to take its toll in the years to come unless remedial measures are implemented right away.

What is carbon monoxide and its adverse effect on human beings? Carbon monoxide (CO) is a very strong "Reducing Agent," capable of zapping up oxygen at a fast rate. The deadly carbon dioxide is produced by incomplete combustion of hydrocarbons such as fuel products. It is found in exhaust fumes of motor vehicles. When engines are kept running in poorly ventilated places such as the parking buildings of shopping malls, the deadly gas accumulates without people noticing it because it is odorless and colorless. But the smell of exhaust fume is a warning that you might be inhaling carbon monoxide.

For the protection of the people, the government should start measuring the exhaust fumes and carbon monoxide contents inside parking buildings of shopping malls. It must inspect its exhaust systems to make sure that they are adequate in drawing out the contaminated air. Security guards should be told to make the rounds continuously to make sure that no vehicle keeps its engine running while parked, and that no one sleeps inside vehicles with the engine and air conditioner turned on.

Another area of concern are the tunnels and underpasses. Are there adequate exhaust systems installed in the tunnels and are they periodically inspected to protect people inside? The narrow Boni Avenue tunnel appears to be threatening because motorists are often caught inside the poorly ventilated tunnel for a long time during rush hours. If one of the vehicles is a smoke-belcher, it could endanger lives due to the accumulation of exhaust fumes containing poisonous carbon monoxide.

In spite of inspections conducted by the Land Transportation Office, people wonder why there are still many smoke-belching buses and jeepneys plying the routes of the metropolis. Those vehicles threaten the health of people each day by discharging big doses of fumes containing carbon monoxide.

Let the tragedy that befell Banawa's family be a wake-up call for authorities to rise to the challenge to make our cities free from life-threatening fumes, especially carbon monoxide.

—L. ENCHONG SEE,
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Coups never resolved national conflicts

THE SPANISH call it *golpe de estado*, the Germans, *putsch*. Whatever the reason for the bias to use the French term*coup d'etat*, is for Philippine sociologists and linguists to analyze. Spanish, German or French, its fearsome meaning is the same: a "direct seizure of political control by members of the armed forces who may be acting in concert with civilian allies." Another definition says, it is "a sudden violent overthrow of a government by a small group."

What precipitated the recent coup, according to the young idealists, are the wanton and greedy sale of arms to enemies of the state by some senior officers.

Coups never improve our economy. On the contrary it cripples industries, it drives away investors and it scares away tourists. There must be a way to address our social, economic and political aberrations without resorting to armed conflicts. Seven coup attempts during the Aquino regime and one in President Macapagal-Arroyo's "strong republic" should be a wake-up call that all is not right in the military and police. This is where our President needs solomonic wisdom to quickly address the problem.

Question: Since when did we have a government where the greedy did not scheme to be overnight *nouveau riche*, and the rich did not get richer? It used to be that the rich contented themselves playing golf. Now they play politics.

Question: How much political will must we have in order for the government to respond to the exigencies of the time?

Jose Rizal wrote: "...politics, when it blazes between tyrants and oppressed peoples, has no heart or brains but fangs, poison and vengeance." (Letter to Blumentritt, London, 7 August 1888)

—SAMUEL P. FERNANDEZ,
Order of the Knights of Rizal,
Bonifacio Drive,
Port Area, Manila

Stampede mars show of 'Meteor Garden' stars

From page A1

VANESS and Ken, members of the former pop quartet F4, perform at the jampacked Philsports football stadium.

pede that injured eight people.

Concert organizer Big Slim Entertainment Production attributed the stampede to "incessant rain" and "meticulous security checks."

Fans started arriving as early as 4 p.m., which was about the same time the gate of the Philsports Football Field was opened, according to police investigator Felipe Ramos.

The steel gate is the only entrance to the stadium, which can accommodate a crowd of 50,000. Some 40,000 fans watched the show.

At 8:30 p.m., a large crowd rushed toward the gate, causing it to collapse. The gate fell on the victims, said Ramos.

"I would have been one of the injured people had I not managed to run away from the falling steel gate," said Armin Magsaysay. "At that time, everyone wanted to get in because the concert was about to start."

Police identified the victims as Maribel Padayao, 17; Rosita Legaspi, 45; Rolando Onchangco, 40; Consuelo Rejano, 25; Catherine Calamlam, 34; Silverio Atienza, 42; Jocelyn Atienza, 55; and Julien Atienza, 11. They were brought to the Medical City Hospital in Mandaluyong at about 9 p.m.

Five people were discharged at around 10 a.m. yesterday, said Medical City Hospital press relations officer Marilyn Atienza. Padayao, Onchangco and Legaspi were still confined at the hospital but were now out of danger, according to Atienza.

There is no word yet on whether Big Slim Entertainment Production will shoulder the hospital expenses.

In a statement, the concert organizer apologized to ticket buyers for "difficulties or any inconvenience experienced in entering the venue."

It said the "meticulous security checks conducted specifically for the safety of the public" and "incessant rains" made it extremely difficult for the people to enter the stadium. Those who brought video and still cameras, mineral water bottles and soft drink cans were at first barred by Philsports security personnel.

Flower 4

Vaness (Mei Zhuo), and Ken (Xi-Men), members of the former pop quartet F4, or Flower 4, and Barbie Xu (Shan Cai) are three of the lead stars of the phenomenal youth show "Meteor Garden" on ABS-CBN.

The two other band members, Jerry Yan (Dao Ming Shi in "Meteor Garden") and Vic Zhuo (Hua Ze Lei), had a show in Taiwan on the same day.

The three Taiwanese celebrities, along with Barbie's younger sister Dee Xu, arrived in Manila on Friday aboard two separate China Airlines flight from Taiwan to perform in a show billed as "The Event."

They returned home yesterday at 11 a.m., disappointing millions of viewers who were expecting them to make a live guest appearance on ABS-CBN's Sunday noontime variety show "ASAP Mania."

In a press statement, ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. said it was "not in any way involved in the production of the concert" and was "merely a media partner" of the event producer.

The network, which holds the exclusive coverage of and interview rights to the visit of the Taiwanese stars, said it had "no participation in the handling or conduct of the concert."

The show started at 8:45 p.m. with half of its audience still standing outside the stadium.

Filipino talents Gary Valenciano, Kyla, The CompanY, Nina, South Border and Luke Mejares sang several songs before the Taiwanese celebrities were called to perform onstage at 10:30 p.m.

Big Slim Entertainment reportedly spent P25 million on talent fees alone for the three Taiwanese stars, in addition to picking up the tab for their accommodation and air fare and the cost of mounting the production.

.This early, local producers are negotiating for their return in March, together with their "Meteor Garden" co-stars Jerry Yan and Vic Zhuo.

Still no GMA decision . . .

From page A1

land in 2001, has been critical of the administration in recent weeks.

While he has disclaimed involvement in the reported plan of certain groups to oust the President and install him as successor, Guingona warned last week that the Jose Pidal controversy swirling around the First Gentleman could lead to something more drastic than the July 27 mutiny in Makati City.

Bunye said Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo would head the government caretaker committee in the President's absence. The executive secretary monitors the day-to-day operations of government and events happening throughout the country and reports them to the traveling President.

Bunye noted that on Ms Macapagal's long trips in the past, Romulo was instructed to "coordinate" with Guingona.

But even when Guingona is formally asked to be the government caretaker, he does not hold office in Malacañang but in the Office of the Vice President, Bunye added.

The President leaves the country on the evening of Sept. 25 to address the 58th General Assembly of the United Nations in New York City. From there, she will go to Rome for an audience with Pope John Paul II and then to Paris to speak before the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization.

She is expected to return to the country on Sept. 30.

Policy differences

A spokesperson for Guingona said yesterday the Vice President won't turn against the President and support her overthrow despite policy differences with her administration.

Danilo Venida issued the statement to counter claims by deposed President Joseph Estrada that Guingona was approaching military leaders to withdraw support from the administration. Other reports claimed that a group of retired and active military generals were plotting to withdraw support from the administration and install Guingona as president.

"The Vice President may have had differences with the President at times but these had been based on principles and [were] never personal," Venida said.

He said Guingona had no intention of resigning and would not participate in any extra-constitutional plot against the President.

Venida added that Guingona's attendance in a national prayer rally for peace, unity and democracy at the Rizal Park last Friday showed that "he remains with the government and seeks unity and peace." The Vice President found himself sitting beside the President at the event organized by Metro Manila mayors.

"The Vice President remains committed to the rule of law. He is not about to turn his back on the government," Venida said.

Beltran's proposal

But Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran said Guingona should seriously consider the suggestion of a "broad formation" of various people's organizations that he "assert political leadership against that of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo."

Beltran said that "for the sake of the nation and the Filipino people, Guingona should be more outspoken regarding the issues confronting the presidency." He said the nation was now turning to the Vice President for leadership.

"There is strong reason to believe that if Vice President Guingona takes over, there will be at least a measure of relief," Beltran said.

Guingona has confirmed his attendance in protest activities to mark the arrival of US President George W. Bush in Manila on Oct. 18. It was not known if Guingona would be present, as required by protocol, in the official activities lined up for Bush during his eight-hour stopover.

Guingona had resigned as foreign secretary over policy differences with the President. A critic of Bush's preemptive strike policy against suspected terrorist regimes, Guingona has been vocal against Ms Macapagal's all-out support for the US-led international campaign against terrorism and the RP-US Balikatan war exercises.

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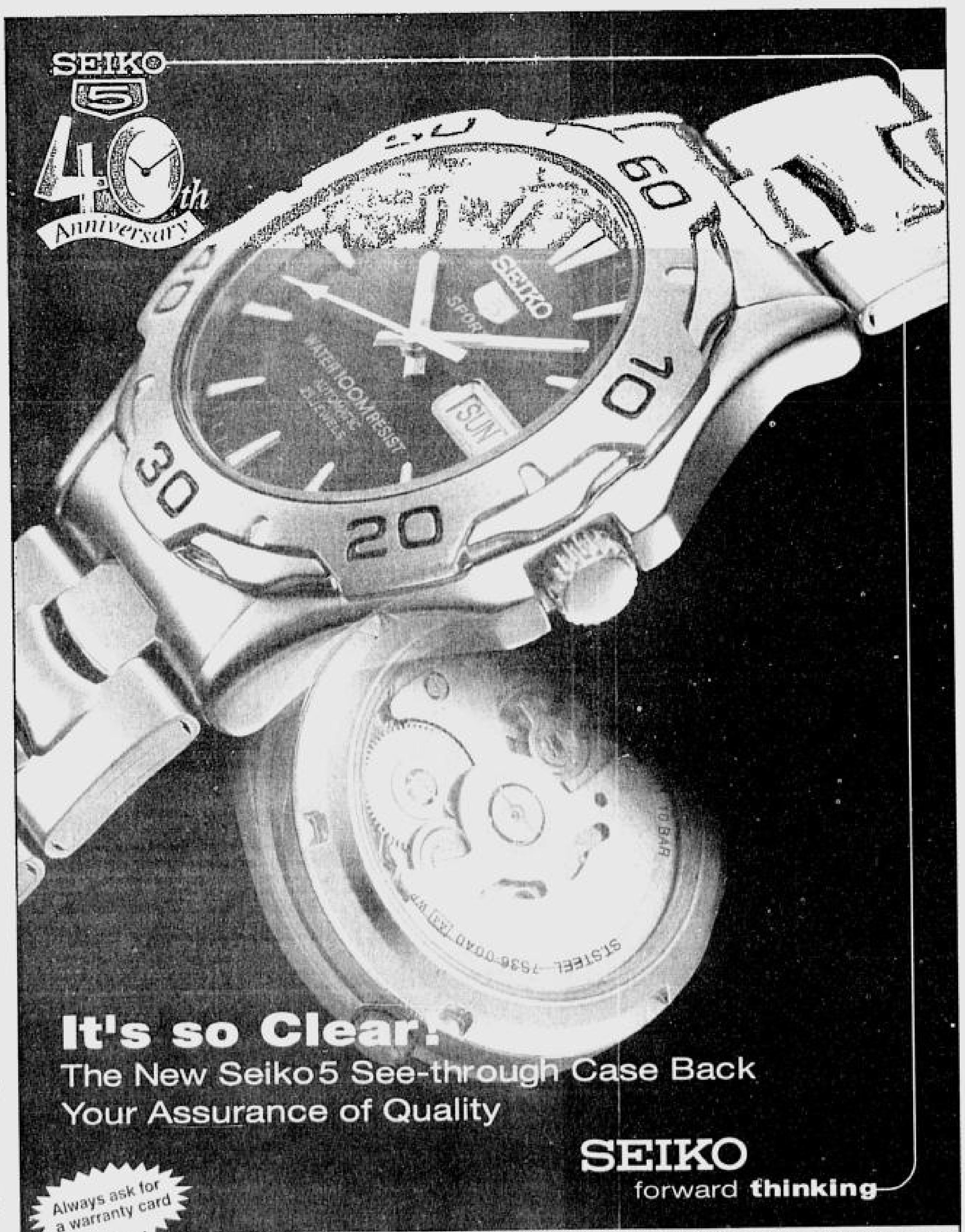
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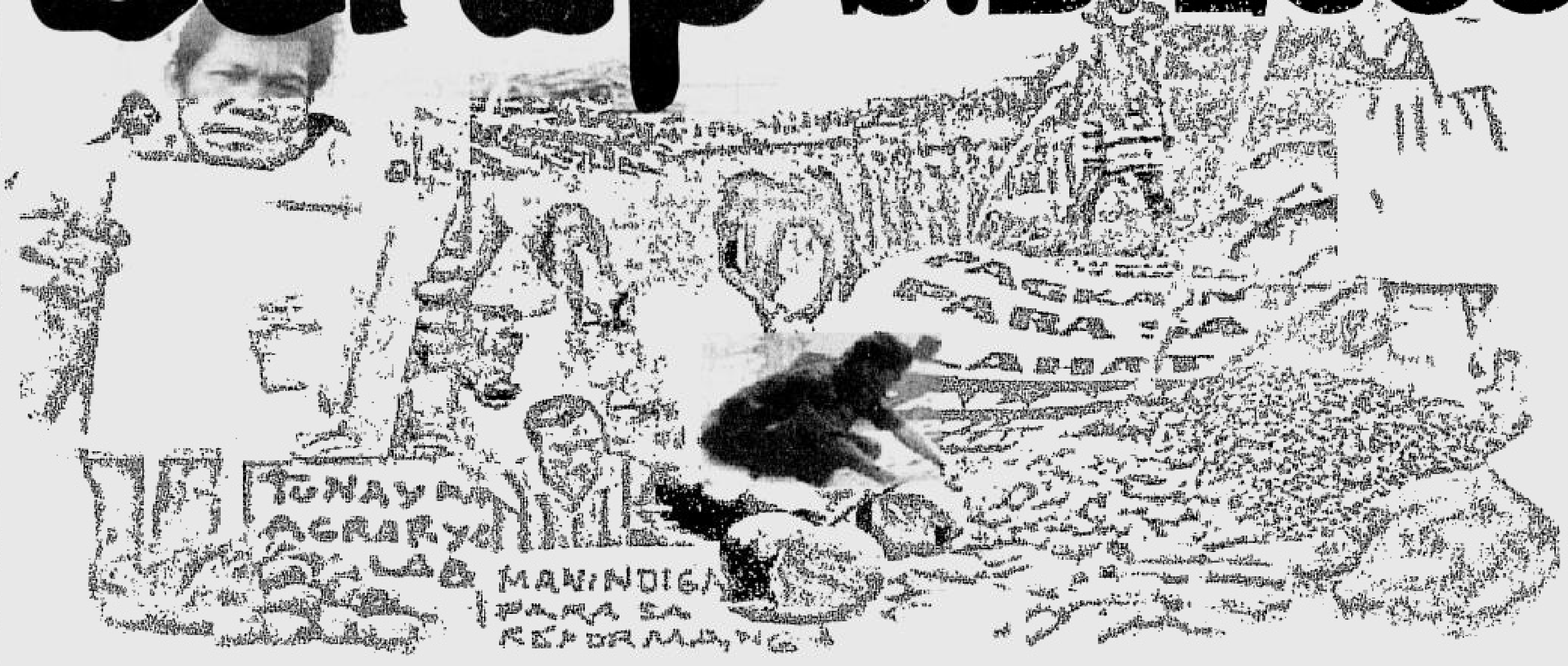

Save Agrarian Reform!
Uphold Democracy!

We, agrarian reform advocates, condemn the railroading of the 'Farmland As Collateral' bill. Senate Bill (S.B.) 2553 was hastily passed on 3rd September 2003 even as various stakeholders were democratically registering their overwhelming opposition to it. Although NEDA, DAR, DSWD and NAPC Farmers' Council have similar objections, interpellations on this priority bill were abruptly terminated, and the bill put to a vote while the Senate was preoccupied with politicking and Jose Pidal. Only three Senators (Arroyo, Pangilinan and Recto) voted against this poisonous bill.

S.B. 2553, sponsored by Senator Sergio Osmeña III, is akin to a Trojan Horse that will deal a fatal blow to the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP). Cleverly presented as a gift to farmers, it cunningly attacks the intent and purpose of the agrarian reform law.

S.B. 2553 purports to empower farmers by allowing collateralization of their farmlands, but the onerous provisions of the bill will actually **result in the farmers losing their land.** The bill would also legitimize foreclosures of properties that were involved in past illegal and usurious loans. Moreover, lands that have been foreclosed will no longer be subjected to CARP, and there will be no more limit on ownership of such lands. This can only lead to reconsolidation of land in the hands of the wealthy few. Ironically, this bill **does not even ease small farmers' access to credit;** bankers have already expressed unwillingness to lend to small farmers even with their farmlands offered as collateral.

If the treacherous provisions in S.B. 2553 were passed into law, these would **reverse agrarian reform in the Philippines,** a government program significantly advanced by Republic Act 3844, signed by the late President Diosdado Macapagal 40 years ago. These would negate the constitutionally mandated social justice concept of equitable land distribution. **Billions of pesos of government investment in agrarian reform would be wasted.** The railroading of this bill sends a strong message to the small farmers that democracy is not working for them.

As the Bicameral Conference approaches, there is still time for the Senators to redeem their institution and rectify the mistake made in passing S.B. 2553 *en toto*. The House of Representatives should do the farmers and the country the honor of being their true representatives by fighting for agrarian reform, and **rejecting anti-agrarian reform provisions** of the bill.

If the onerous provisions in S.B. 2553 make their way into law, then we expect nothing less than for President Gloria Macapagal–Arroyo to veto the bill! S.B. 2553 will kill agrarian reform, the most worthy legacy of her father to this nation.

Manindigan para sa Repormang Agraryo!
Manindigan para sa Demokrasya!
Manindigan para sa Kaunlaran!

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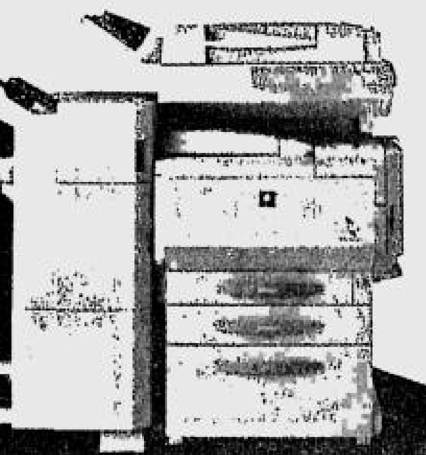

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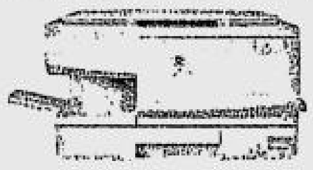

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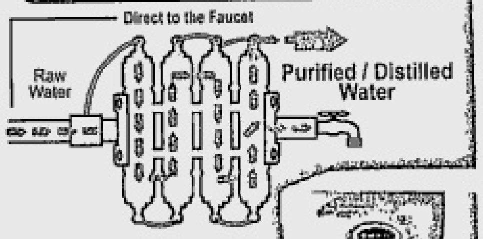

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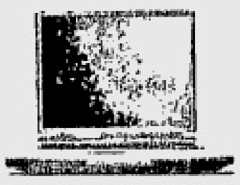

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Debate over rights shows fissures ...

From page A1

know" was highlighted by the July 27 coup attempt and the events that followed the Oakwood siege. There is no question that the public has the right to know that a rebellion has broken out, but the debate is over whether the press covered the event in such a way as to give aid and comfort to the rebels (thus unwittingly digging its own grave).

It hardly escaped the public's notice that members of the press who covered the mutiny appeared to revel over the fact that a band of military renegades had staged an armed attempt to overthrow a democratic government. By embellishing the coup attempt with a fiesta atmosphere, the press romanticized the coup leaders as though they were the new saviors, and feasted on their grievances. It described the rebellion in less than neutral terms.

True, conflict is the stuff of which front-page news is made, but press coverage of the coup attempt can be legitimately faulted for its emphasis on trivia and drama. The grave implications of the coup attempt, for a democracy already battered by a series of tumultuous events during the past three years, were largely overlooked.

Goodbye, objectivity

The emphasis of the coverage, tilting the scales on the side of the rebels, can hardly qualify the press as either "neutral" or "objective"—concepts the press likes the public to believe it practices.

For several hours from the time the mutiny erupted, all the public watched on TV were scenes of the Magdalo plotters, conveying their grievances and their propaganda. Where did balance and objectivity go, in the midst of this dramatic moment that made the press forget that the coup had sought to overthrow a government?

According to documents seized from the rebels, and evidence presented in subsequent inquiries, the rebellion was far from "spontaneous"—a point of view fostered by the renegade officers and accepted uncritically by the press. The press, in its penchant to gloat over attacks that rock the government, believes it is serving democratic discourse by fostering relentless fault-finding.

According to the rebels' blueprint, one of their strategic objectives was seize a couple of TV and radio stations, together with centers of state and military power. The rebels achieved media exposure and seized the propaganda initiative without firing a single shot and without taking over broadcast stations. Media facilitated the rebels' goals by giving them free access and space, awarding them monopoly and the advantage of exposure during the critical hours in which the fate of government and even the democratic system was hanging in the balance.

Taking sides

In a rebellion that threatens the life not only of a democratic government but also of democracy itself, the press has to take sides, to decide whether to give the advantage to a rebellion through the accent of their coverage.

The press may not like a sitting government (certainly, this government has plenty of faults), but it can only perform its function of giving the public the information they have the right to know in the context of a democratic system.

In the Oakwood crisis, the press took the side of the rebels, through the emphasis of its coverage. But the right of a democratic state to defend itself against a coup has a superior claim on the loyalty of citizens, especially the press, which cannot survive in the suffocating ambience of a military dictatorship.

Thus, the lopsided coverage did not advance the "people's right to know," given that the news was weighted heavily on the side of the rebels. Their claims and grievances were not even subjected to rigorous editorial skepticism—the hallmark of good journalism. The press swallowed their claims hook, line and sinker, an embarrassing abandonment of journalists' responsibility during a crisis, which is to untangle the knot of confusion rather than set the cords of rebellion aflame.

The press has a natural responsibility to defend democracy when it is attacked because without a democratic state, it cannot exercise its freedom. I am quite sure that if the coup had succeeded, the first right to disappear would have been the "right of the public to know," and the first to be censored and jailed would have been members of the press.

Finding fault

I am not saying that in a rebellion, the press should not inform the public about such a conflict and its causes. But my quarrel is over the emphasis of coverage that bestows advantages on the rebellion and gratuitously facilitates its goal of grabbing power.

Apparently, the press has the mistaken belief that its purpose in democratic society is forever finding fault. But this should not be equated with the exercise of press freedom. The press cannot use its guaranteed constitutional right to foster a permanent state of adversarial conflict. While democracy is strengthened by differences in points of view and by vigorous debate, democracy should also be given the chance to govern effectively, not to be paralyzed by impasse. The press is not betraying the public trust by defending democracy—the fountainhead of press freedom—when it comes under attack.

Moving on to the Senate hearings on the Jose Pidal accounts, some senators have argued that the right to privacy is subordinated to "public interest." Lawyers have cited jurisprudence upholding the individual's right to privacy against intrusions of even Senate investigations. We have to ask senators, however, what "public interest" has been served by the current Senate hearings on the controversy, in which unverified allegations have been allowed to pollute the Senate arena. What has happened in the hearings is that the Senate has become the public septic tank into which the sewage of Philippine adversarial politics has been pumped—with the press serving up the noxious effluents in the name of the "public's right to know."

WAITING FOR WTO

Farmers walk in a rice field carrying freshly harvested rice, the Philippines' main agricultural product, in northern Pampanga. As the World Trade Organization wraps up its five-day conference in Mexico, the 146 member countries deliberated a new global trade pact that aimed to liberalize global trade but highlight the gap between rich and poor countries. Critics say that agricultural export subsidies, when offered by rich countries to their farmers, prevent their counterparts in the developing world from competing effectively. AFP

Pangilinan to Lacson: Present evidence first

From page A1

the horse," Pangilinan said.

Senators have sworn to uphold and defend the Constitution and "in case of doubt I believe we should resolve the issue in favor of upholding the constitutional right of the citizen," the senator said.

He said it "bothers" him that senators were pressuring an individual to answer an accusation when they had yet to see sufficient evidence, apart from the photocopies that Lacson submitted to the three committees.

Pangilinan said he believes the hearings should continue provided Lacson presents his evidence. He stressed that the photocopies of documents that Lacson had so far submitted to them were "not good enough," given the "gravity of his accusations."

Sources from Lacson's camp said yesterday the senator was coming home from the United States "anytime this week." They had earlier said that Lacson would arrive yesterday, or ten days after he was granted a 10-day travel authority from the Senate.

The meeting at 3 p.m. today, expected to be attended by members of the Senate committees on public accountability (blue ribbon), constitutional amendments and banks, will discuss whether Arroyo, the younger brother of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, could be compelled to answer questions despite invoking his right to privacy.

The members are also expected to discuss the motion of administration Sen. Robert Barbers to suspend or terminate the Senate inquiry pending Lacson's submission of evidence.

The committees have conducted two public hearings, but the inquiry has stalled because Arroyo invoked his right to privacy and bank officials invoked the Bank Secrecy Law.

Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara, chair of the constitutional amendments committee, conceded on Friday that some members may not be able to attend today's caucus, but he said they will be contacted by phone instead.

Aside from Lacson, the other senators who are out of the country on official trips are Minority Leader Vicente Sotto and administration Senators Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and Ralph Recto.

Angara underscored the need for the committees to resolve the issue whether Ignacio could invoke his right to privacy.

Lawyers' opinion

In today's meeting, senators are expected to hear the opinion of other lawyers on the privacy issue.

Adminstration Sen. Joker Arroyo, chair of the blue ribbon committee, said many "concerned lawyers" had sent their opinions on the "pros and cons" of Arroyo's invoking his right to privacy.

The senator said the opinions of the lawyers would "assist" the committees in reaching a decision on an issue "where there are a few precedents."

"We welcome (the opinions) because no one has a monopoly of knowledge," Arroyo said.

Barbers said he would use today's caucus to reiterate his earlier motion for the committees to suspend the hearings until Lacson comes up with solid evidence.

He said that if in the next hearing Lacson is still unable to produce evidence, then he will move for the termination of the Senate inquiry.

GMA jokes save Gridiron show rehash

From page A1

includes her chief of staff Rigoberto Tiglao, spokesperson Ignacio Bunye and Press Secretary Milton Alingod—all former journalists. "While the media group is very good in bonding, it is very poor in plumbing. Because when there is a [news] leak, they cannot pinpoint the source. I wonder why," she said.

And, in the Gridiron tradition of presidential responses, she cracked jokes at her own expense. She said there was a mix-up when she ordered roses to be delivered to GMA-7 reporter Tina Panganiban-Perez, whom she had berated after she interviewed suspected coup plotter Sen. Gregorio Honasan.

The roses were first delivered to Energy Secretary Vincent Perez, who blushed. A second bouquet of roses was sent to ex-Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, long rumored to be romantically involved with the President. This time, Ms Macapagal joked, it was her turn to blush.

Family night

The President brought her entire family to the show, which was held at the Manila Hotel. She was accompanied by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, their daughter Luli and sons Mikey and Dato and their wives.

"I'd like to ask you to see my family who are all here with me tonight," she said. To her family she said, "Well, stand up, stand up. I am very glad to have my family with me tonight."

It was the first time the First Family showed up in full force in public since opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson charged that Arroyo had laundered as much as P260 million of her wife's campaign contributions through the use of secret Jose Pidal accounts. Lacson also intimated that Arroyo carried on an illicit affair with his personal accountant Victoria Toh.

The President joked that it was the idea of her "media group," the group directing the Palace handling of controversies, for her to bring the entire family. The plan, she said, was to create a scene where she would separate with Arroyo.

"But my media group found it hard to change my image from being *mataray* (feisty) to martyr. So sorry, the sob story can wait because I still have to comply with my New Year's resolution not to be *mataray*," she said.

First Gentleman

But it was the First Gentleman who felt most of the heat.

Arroyo, in his first public appearance with the President and their children since the start of the Senate probe into the Jose Pidal accounts, was perspiring and fidgeting in his seat throughout the film-length skit—a tedious rehash of last year's Gridiron with only the Oakwood mutiny characters and the Jose Pidal case as the notable additions.

While the President sat through the show with a smile on her face, and the rest of the VIPs at the presidential table (such as Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople and Alingod) looked like they were watching a serious play, the First Gentleman was trying hard to control his unease—twiddling his thumbs, tapping his fingers and feet, tweaking the bridge of his nose, scratching his head and ears, taking off his glasses, looking up at the ceiling or stretching his legs.

His glass of iced tea was half full only a few seconds after it arrived on his table, which was shortly after Toh's name was first mentioned in the skit.

The First Gentleman did not mind it when the cast poked fun at his girth, but he was visibly affected every time Toh's name and the Pidal account were mentioned in the latter half of the show.

At one point, he shook his head and was overheard saying "*Sobra naman 'yan* (That's too much)" when the character "Mike Pidal Arroyo" (played by Sammy Martin) went down on his knees, bawling and begging for forgiveness from his wife for having a "number toh (a reference to his alleged mistress)."

Shortly thereafter, Arroyo talked to someone on his mobile phone.

The First Gentleman managed to flash a rare grin when the cast poked fun at Lacson's alleged sexual preference and broadcaster Jessica Soho's corpulence.

But when the cast took their final bows, and the lights were turned back on, the hair at the back of his head was visibly soaked.

Serious talk

In one of the few serious portions in her response, the President extended her condolences to the media for the killing of Davao City broadcaster Juan Porras Pala Jr.

She told NPC president Tony Antonio that she approved of the suggestion for the Philippine National Police and the NPC to team up to find and prosecute Pala's killers. She gave the assignment of finding Pala's killers to the PNP chief himself, Director General Hermogenes Edbane.

Then she joked: "I hope at the same time he stumbles on [escaped Indonesian terrorist Fathur] Rohman Al-ghozi as well," to loud applause.

She mentioned Malacañang's approach to handling media. "In Malacañang, the order of the day is always two things: Feed the beast and try to influence the agenda. But I think for the editors, the order of the day is: Bite the hand that feeds the beast and kill the good news," she said, drumming up her main message for the night.

Freedom of the press, she said, was important to a democratic country, as proven by the country's sorry experience shown during the martial law regime, when the death of press freedom also brought about the death of other democratic institutions.

"The people were kept in the dark about what was actually happening to our country because the dictatorship made it appear that everything was going well and it was done with the help of the controlled press," she said.

Now the opposite is happening, she said.

"The media always makes it appear that our country is in deep trouble ... but the truth of the matter is that we are progressing economically, and compared with other Asian countries, except maybe China and Malaysia, we're doing comparatively well," she said.

"So I appeal to you, please consider your reports even if you and I know that good news does not always make, seldom makes, for good copy. I wish it did and I wish you could make it so," she said.

Newspaper headlines

Showing a grasp of newspaper biases, the President ended her speech by suggesting headlines for different newspapers if tomorrow were the end of the world. She made two headlines for the INQUIRER.

INQUIRER analysis: Political conspiracies put an end to the world.

INQUIRER: Mike A: I won't last a day without you; PGMA: I will survive

The other headlines, she said, would be:

Tribune: Last day for Arroyo; Erap takes over

Malaya: Oreta demands snap elections tomorrow

Philippine Star: Star publisher invited to UN summit on the end of the world

People's Journal: Malacañang creates crisis committee for the end of the world

People's Tonight: Gringo: Ako iyong nasa litrato

Pilipino Star Ngayon: Huling Ro-Ro, biyahe na

Abante Tonite: Bagsak ang gobyerno ni GMA

TV Patrol: Meralco pays full refund to the customers

Balita: Noli: Paalam na, bayan.

"We will survive. The Republic will survive with the help of fair and free media," she said. *With a report from AP*

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Politicians linked to bank heists

From page A1

"These are very serious allegations that the authorities cannot just sweep under the rug," Santiago said.

One of the boldest attacks was on the Citibank Center in Makati City on Aug. 25, when 15 armed robbers engaged responding policemen in a brief gunfight. It was not clear how much money the American bank lost to the robbers.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr. speculated that the incidents might have been politically motivated, especially after police found that remnants of the Kuratong Baleleng group had staged the Citibank robbery.

The PNP, however, has refused to link politicians to the spate of bank robberies.

"We base our conclusion on evidence," Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, national police information officer, told the INQUIRER yesterday. "So far, there's been no evidence directly linking the robbery incidents to politicians."

PNP records indicated the national police's inability to effectively respond to bank robberies. Of the 21 bank heists between January and August, police failed to arrest any suspect and recover any loot. Only two cases were filed in court.

Two security guards and one bank employee have been killed in the heists since the start of the year, according to Santiago.

He said many of the bank robberies were believed to have been pulled off by syndicates led by former soldiers and dismissed police officers.

Santiago noted that two of the three biggest robberies occurred outside Metro Manila. The Land Bank of the Philippines lost P15 million when its armored van was ambushed in Baguias, Benguet in March. In Cebu last month, the Landbank lost P10 million.

The biggest bank robbery in Metro Manila happened in Valenzuela in June. Allied Banking Corp. lost P15 million to armed robbers.

Following the robbery of a Planters Bank branch in Valenzuela on Friday, Northern Police District officials started beefing up security in commercial centers and banks.

More cops

Chief Supt. Marcelino Franco Jr., NPD director, said additional police personnel had been assigned to the Camanava (Caloocan-Malabon-Navotas-Valenzuela) area. Motorcycle units, mobile patrols and detectives have been ordered to be extra vigilant.

Another police officer said the NPD might meet with bank security officials to flesh out a comprehensive alarm and response system.

On Wednesday, just two days before the latest bank robbery, Supt. Jose Marcelo, Valenzuela police chief, discussed with security officers of all the banks in the city measures to install or replace outdated close circuit television units (CCTVs) and security alarms with more sophisticated gadgets.

On Friday morning, a few minutes after it had opened its doors for business, at least four armed men robbed the Planters Bank branch in Marulas town in Bulacan. The bank had no CCTV or alarm which would have been a big help in identifying the robbers, Marcelo said.

Marcelo said two of the suspects had been identified. One of them was one Leandro Lagmay, whose identification card was found inside a bag that the robbers left inside the vault in their haste to get out of the bank.

The police chief said Lagmay worked with the Ayala Greenfield Estate Project as a construction worker and had not reported for work in June.

"Follow-up operations are now being conducted and it's just a matter of time before they fall into our hands," Marcelo said. *With a report from Christian V. Esguerra*

Death of toxic...

From page A1

The victims are suffering from various ailments due to exposure to hazardous wastes and materials at the former Clark Air Base in Pampanga and Subic in Zambales.

"Their deaths were untimely. Both had wanted to join the rally to remind President Bush of America's toxic legacy in the Philippines," Timbas said of Ortiz and Reyes.

He said Ortiz and Reyes were leaders of the Yakap-Subic, a member of the Alliance for Bases Cleanup.

Ortiz worked for 24 years at the Subic Naval Base's public works center, a site that a government-sponsored study confirmed as contaminated, according to Timbas.

He was a foreman when the US Navy pulled out in 1992, a year after the Philippine Senate rejected the extension of the RP-US Military Bases Agreement.

Stripped asbestos

In his medical records, Ortiz reported being exposed to asbestos for 17 years, particularly during temporary additional duties (TADs) in Clark, the US Embassy in Manila and the US consulate in Shanghai, China. He told the task force that in all those TADs, he removed or stripped asbestos.

"Although the employee exposure notification issued to him by the US Navy in Subic showed that he was only minimally exposed to asbestos, his medical records showed that he had malignant mesothelioma. [He] was even strongly advised by his doctor to undergo an operation which he couldn't [afford] because he lacked [money]," Timbas said in a letter sent by e-mail to the INQUIRER.

Mesothelioma is a rare cancer of the thin membranes lining the abdominal cavities surrounding the internal organs.

Reyes, on the other hand, worked for 27 years in Subic's naval magazine where ammunition were stored. As forklift operator, he loaded and unloaded ammunition from the pier. He reported wrapping damaged ammunition with asbestos cloth.

Timbas said that like Ortiz, the medical records of Reyes showed that he had malignant mesothelioma and his death certificate showed that he died from a heart attack.

Although both were cited by the US Navy for their exemplary work, the two survived on a measly monthly pension of P4,000 each.

Ortiz worked as a radio announcer for five years until the constant pain immobilized him. On the other hand, Reyes, in post-Subic years, worked as a photographer and ice cream vendor to sustain his big family.

"They painfully struggled with shortness of breath, bouts of pneumonia and other illnesses. They didn't have the means to buy medicine or undergo any form of treatment. Ortiz said all he could afford was hot water to relieve himself of the pain," Timbas said.

Braulio Pabillare, a former supervisor at the ship repair facility and chair of Yakap-Subic, said Ortiz and Reyes were "a great loss to us."

"They died actively fighting to have our former masters (US) heed the call for responsibility. It is sad to see them go before seeing the fruit of our actions," Pabillare said.

Not a blessing

On the political front, an administration congressman claims that President Macapagal-Arroyo doesn't need Bush.

"It's not a case of the Great White Father coming over to give a benediction to GMA's political plans," Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri (Lakas, Bukidnon) said yesterday. "Rather it's he desperately seeking an anointment from her."

Zubiri was reacting to reports that Bush's visit to Manila on Oct. 18 would serve as a blessing for Ms Macapagal running for president in May 2004.

The lawmaker noted that Bush's popularity in the United States was plunging largely due to his decision to invade Iraq on exaggerated claims that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction and links to the al-Qaida terrorist network.

"With his plunging popularity, it's Bush who needs help from a lady of an ethnic bloc," Zubiri said, referring to the 4-million-strong Filipino-American community in the United States.

Zubiri said the visit of Bush "is a campaign stop of a US president who is in danger of not being reelected."

By coming here, according to Zubiri, Bush would like to "show the Filipino-Americans back home that he is chummy with the Philippine president."

"He is telling them: Dubya is a friend of GMA," the administration congressman said. *With a report from Carlito Pablo in Manila*

Second hirit na!
Meralco Refund

Para sa mga customer na kumonsumo ng
101 hanggang 300 kilowatthours
base sa April 2003 bill.

Sa lubusang paglilingkod ng MERALCO sa mamamayang Pilipino, tuloy-tuloy pa rin ang pagbigay ng refund na sinimulan noong June 2003.

Sino ang kasama sa Phase 2 refund?
Simula September hanggang December 2003, ang mga registered at active residential at general service customer na may konsumong mula 101 kWh hanggang 300 kWh base sa April 2003 bill ang makakatanggap ng refund.

Magkano ang makukuhang refund?
Ang halaga ng refund ay base sa kilowatthour na konsumong kuryente ng registered customer sa loob ng panahon mula February 1994 (o simula ng kontrata sa Meralco) hanggang May 2003.

Saan at kailan makukuha ang refund?
Nakalagay sa inyong September 2003 bill kung anong buwan naka-schedule ninyong matatanggap ang refund. Kung buwan na ng inyong refund, makikita ang mga detalye tulad ng saang branch, kailan at magkano ang makukuhang refund. Abangan ang electric bill na may refund details.

Paano makukuha ang refund?
Siguraduhing kumpleto ang dala ninyong dokumento para makuha ang refund.

Kung ang service contract ay nakapangalan sa inyo (bilang registered customer) dalhin ang:
a. **Current bill na may refund details**
b. Isang (1) valid ID na may litrato at pirma tulad ng:
Driver's License, PRC License, Passport, New SSS/GSIS/TIN ID
c. **Xerox copy ng inyong valid ID at ng current bill na may refund details**

Kung kayo ang kinatawan o authorized representative ng registered customer, dalhin ang:
a. **Current bill na may refund details**
b. **Authorization letter** na pirmado ng registered customer at kung saan nakasulat ang inyong pangalan bilang kinatawan o representative
c. **Isang (1) valid ID ng registered customer** na may litrato at pirma
d. **Dalawang (2) valid ID ninyo** (bilang kinatawan o authorized representative)
e. **Xerox copy ng mga sumusunod:**
Dalawang (2) valid ID ninyo
Isang (1) valid ID ng registered customer
Current bill na may refund details

Maari na ring dalhin ang mga sumusunod bilang valid ID na may litrato at pirma ninyo:
a. **Philhealth ID**
b. **Senior Citizen's ID**
c. **Postal ID**
d. **Firearm's License**
e. **Original NBI Clearance**
f. **Credit Card**

May ibang paraan pa ba para makuha ang refund?
Kung ayaw ninyong maabala at pumila pa sa refund center, ibabayad pa rin sa inyo ang halaga ng refund. Ibabawas ang halaga ng refund sa mga susunod ninyong electric bills.

Ito na ba ang huling refund?
Hindi pa. Lahat ng mga Meralco customer ay makakakuha ng refund. Para sa mga hindi pa nakakakuha ng refund ng June at nitong September to December 2003, abangan lang po ang aming abiso sa mga susunod na electric bills, print ads at announcements.

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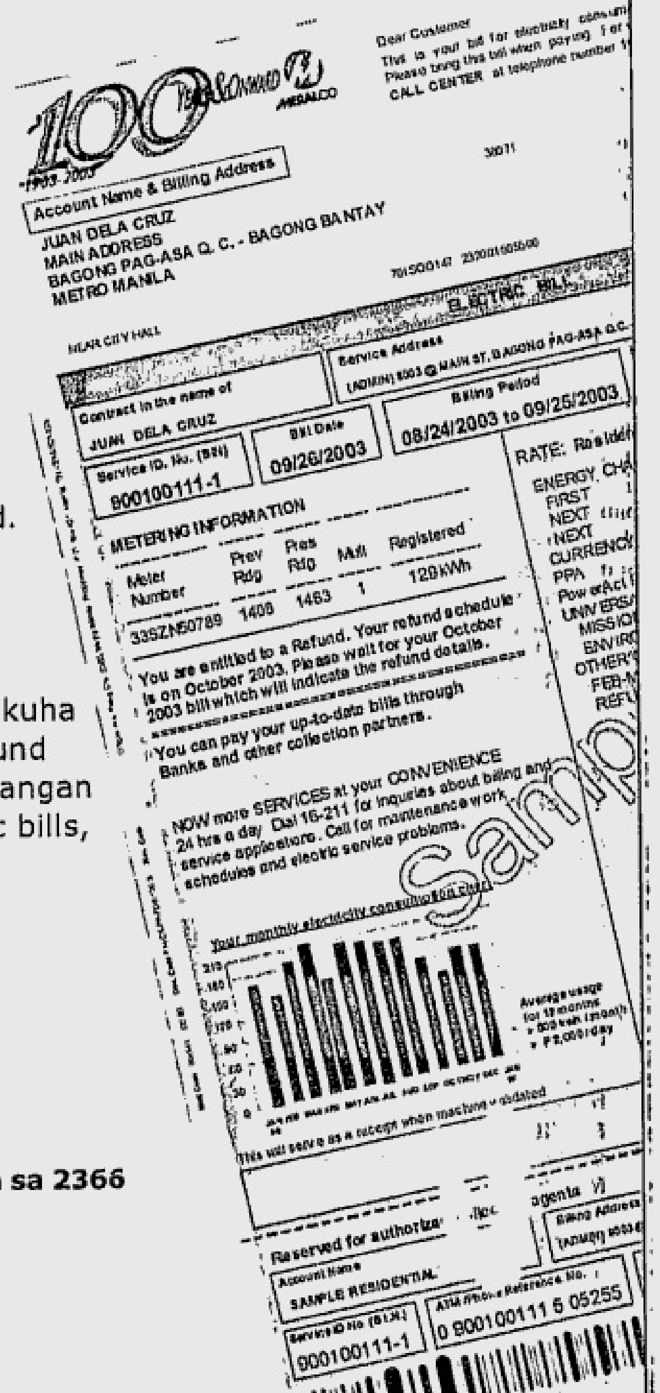

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METRO MANILA
ELECTRIC BILL
Contract in the name of: JUAN DELA CRUZ
Service ID. No. (SIN): 900100111-1
Bill Date: 09/26/2003
Billing Period: 08/24/2003 to 09/25/2003
METERING INFORMATION
Meter Number: 335ZN50789 Prev Rdg: 1408 Pres Rdg: 1463 Mult: 1 Registered: 120kWh
You are entitled to a Refund. Your refund schedule is on October 2003. Please wait for your October 2003 bill which will indicate the refund details.
You can pay your up-to-date bills through Banks and other collection partners.
NOW more SERVICES at your CONVENIENCE 24 hrs a day. Dial 16-211 for inquiries about billing and service applications. Call for maintenance work schedules and electric service problems.
Your monthly electricity consumption chart
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ATM/Phone Reference No.: 0 900100111 6 05255

REFORMING THE FORCE

PNP shifting from creed to oath

SOOTHING BLAST
People flock to the fountain of the Cultural Center of the Philippines in Pasay City over the weekend to relax and gather strength to meet the week ahead. JESS YUSON

By Margaux C. Ortiz

IT IS a matter of programming.

And for the National Police Commission (Napolcom), that means the performance of the country's lawmen depended on what they recited during Monday flag-raising ceremonies.

According to Commissioner Miguel Coronel, the present creed was apparently not having much impact on members of the Philippine National Police (PNP), many of whom have been involved in crimes and other demeanors.

Thus, he said, it was high time to change the "police officers' creed" to a "police officers' oath."

"The police creed is just expressions of belief in God, in respect for authority, and in love and service to the people," Coronel explained.

Policemen even drop parts of the creed when reciting it during flag and formal ceremonies to save time, the commissioner noted.

What police officers really needed was an expression of commitment and dedication to the force, Coronel added.

In the oath that he was proposing, policemen would have to say "I will relentlessly prevent crime and prosecute criminals, in partnership with the community" instead of reciting "I believe in selfless love and service to the people" in the original creed.

Coronel said the proposed oath would enable law enforcers to profess to the world that they were binding and committing themselves to do their duties.

He, however, clarified that while creed meant belief, the new oath meant promise and commitment.

The commissioner said the new oath was patterned after the International Association of Chiefs of Police's law enforcement code of ethics.

"Policemen have to be serious about their oath," Coronel stressed.

He said that reciting the revised oath properly would constantly remind the law enforcers of what they were bound to do.

"It will also increase their self-worth because the policemen will be able to let everyone know their vital role in the community," Coronel said.

Robbers one step ahead

By Tina Santos

ROBBERS were again ahead of the police and bank officials during Friday's heist at the Planters Bank in Valenzuela City.

Valenzuela City police chief Supt. Jose Marcelo disclosed that four suspects struck even as discussions were held to improve the security in and around banks in the city.

On Wednesday or two days before the robbery, Marcelo talked to security officials of the banks about installing cameras or replacing outdated close circuit television units and alarms with more sophisticated gadgets.

Marcelo told the INQUIRER that the Planters Bank in Marulas did not have any security cameras which would have helped in identifying the suspects.

On Aug. 25, heavily armed men stormed the Citibank branch in the Makati Central Business District. Video footage of the incident proved useless since images were blurry. That day, bank officials had discussed replacing their cameras with better ones.

VRB agent nabbed for extort try

By Tina Santos

A POLICE official detailed with the Videogram Regulatory Board (VRB) was nabbed before dawn yesterday in an entrapment operation after he was accused of trying to extort money from a Filipino-Chinese trader he earlier arrested for selling pirated CDs and VCDs in Caloocan City.

Senior Insp. Marlo Catan, 29, of Barangay Bocal, Pagbilao, Quezon, was arrested at the Hap Tian Restaurant along Edsa in Caloocan City after reportedly taking P15,000 in marked money.

Police sources said Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida ordered the operation led by the National Bureau of Investigation and the local police following the complaint of one Chi Leung Wong, 31, of Potrero, Malabon.

2 cops in hot water over shootings

TWO POLICEMEN, two shootings, two bodies.

On Saturday night, SPO1 Arthur de la Cruz, assigned in Caloocan City and a resident of Pag-asa Street, Caloocan City, was reportedly drunk while in the company of several other men.

At about 10 p.m., De la Cruz and his companions reportedly blocked the path of tricycle driver Rudy Hamor, 24, along A. Bonifacio Avenue near Agudo Street, Barangay San Jose, Quezon City.

For still unknown reasons, the lawman and his companions dragged Hamor off his tricycle and started beating him up.

Hamor managed to run away, leaving his tricycle behind.

On his way to seek police help, he met Jeffrey Uy, 24, a student and neighbor at Tagaytay Street, Barangay San Jose, Quezon City.

Uy offered to accompany Hamor to talk to the suspects and get his tricycle back. But as they were approaching the tricycle, several shot rang out and a bullet hit Uy in the head.

Hamor rushed the victim to the Chinese General Hospital but Uy was declared dead on arrival.

De la Cruz could not be reached for comment.

In Taguig, Reymon Diaz Peñas, 22, of Pasong Tamo Extension, Western Bicutan, was shot on Saturday night.

The victim died while undergoing treatment at the Makati Medical Center.

Later, PO1 Romel Gillamac surrendered to Senior Insp. Cornelio Castillo of Camp Bagong Diwa, Bicutan.

It was still being determined whether it was Gillamac who shot Peñas and the motive behind the incident was still unknown.

WALK FOR A CAUSE
Vice President Teofisto Guingona (in blue shorts) and Social Welfare and Development Secretary Dinky Soliman lead the walk-for-a-cause at the Luneta Grandstand recently which raised more than P1 million in donations and pledges for the country's out-of-school youth.

Antipolo high school teacher collared for robbery in Pasig City

By Luige del Puerto

A TEACHER by day, a robber by night?

That was the question that played in the minds of policemen in Pasig City after they arrested a high school teacher for allegedly robbing a poultry supply shop in Barangay Palatiw.

Hilario Latore, 37, a Physics teacher at the Kalawis National High School in Antipolo City, was arrested with Orlando del Rosario, 22, at a checkpoint, minutes after two men with a .38-caliber revolver and a homemade gun robbed the Celievon Poultry Supply shop on Market Avenue of P7,000.

Shop owner Jaena Enriquez immediately sought police help and checkpoints were set up.

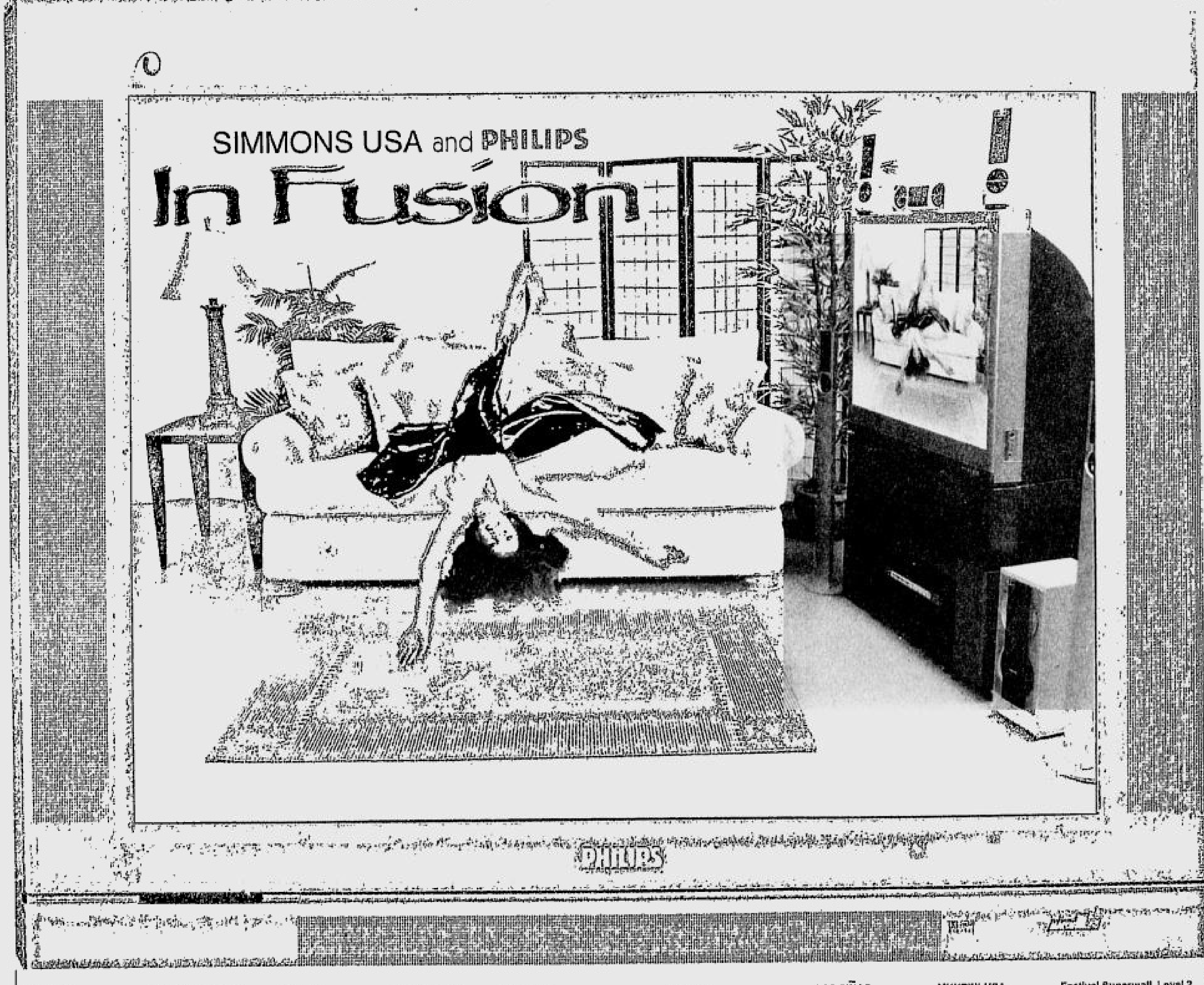
The police then spotted Latore and del Rosario on board a motorcycle. When searched, del Rosario's bag yielded the loot.

Latore denied any hand in the robbery.

He said he was just looking for uniforms in the market and was on the way home when del Rosario waved to him.

"I did not hesitate to give him a ride because he was a neighbor," he said.

But officer on case P01 John Ocleda said Enriquez positively identified the two as the ones who robbed her shop.



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Fight over loot share leads to shootout

By Alcuin Valle Papa

A DISAGREEMENT over the division of their spoils was said to have caused the death of a suspected member of a cellphone robbery gang in Taguig, police said yesterday.

Another suspected gang member sustained gunshot wounds.

The fatality was identified as Rosnindo Gallenosa, 37, of 22 Daang Hari Avenue, Taguig. Injured was Conrado Olimpiada, 36, a vendor of PNR Site, Parañaque City.

Both sustained gunshot wounds in different parts of their bodies, police said.

According to the investigation of SPO1 Rodrigo Balacuay, the two victims were shot inside their alleged hideout in the PNR Site in Parañaque at 2:15 a.m.

Investigation showed that Gallenosa visited Olimpiada at the hideout. After a few hours, Gallenosa left but returned a few minutes later.

As Gallenosa was knocking on the door of the hideout, two men appeared from behind and shot him with handguns.

The gunmen then barged into the house and fired at Olimpiada before escaping.

Gallenosa died upon arrival at the Pasay General Hospital. Olimpiada is in serious condition.

Meanwhile, a worker who was showing off his newly acquired cellphone was stabbed by one of his drinking mates in Las Piñas City the other night.

Investigation showed that the victim, Joselito Dalida, 26, was bragging about his Nokia 3310 cellphone when Rodnel Padilla, 26, who was drinking with him, asked to see the phone. Dalida refused.

This sparked a heated argument between the two until Padilla pulled out a knife and stabbed the victim repeatedly before escaping. Police are still searching for the suspect.

EXPENSIVE SUIT
Members of the Quezon City Special Weapons and Tactics team demonstrate how to use a new bomb suit worth P2.5 million donated by the local government to the team. The Quezon City SWAT team is the only police team in the country to have this kind of a bomb suit. JOAN BONDOC

Guard stabbed dead by mall shoplifter

By Tina Santos

A SECURITY guard was killed while his superior was seriously injured after they were stabbed by the man whom they caught shoplifting at a mall in Quezon City on Saturday night.

Ronnie De Vera, 25, a security guard at Rustan's Cubao, was pronounced dead on arrival at the Quezon City Medical Center. He had five stab wounds in the chest.

De Vera's security officer Angel Bolano, 53, remains in critical condition at an undisclosed hospital due to a stab wound he sustained in the body.

Suspect Eduardo Esquibias, 23, of Barangay Pembo, Makati, was arrested by the police and is now detained at the Criminal Investigation Unit of the Central Police District.

Investigation revealed that De Vera brought Esquibias to their security office after he caught him in the act of slipping a bottle of shampoo inside his pocket at 9:45 p.m.

During interrogation and as the guards were waiting for the police to arrive, the suspect suddenly pulled out a knife and repeatedly stabbed the victims.

The guards apparently failed to frisk the suspect, who had the kitchen knife tucked on his waist.

The flurry of stabs made by the suspect only stopped after he was mobbed by the victims' colleagues.

Ex-Phivolcs head cited for award

IN FITTING but simple rites, Dr. Raymundo Punongbayan, retired director of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), was feted recently to a dinner for receiving a prestigious science award.

Punongbayan was recently awarded the 2003 Sergey Soloviev Award, an international and prestigious award given by the European Geophysical Society to distinguished scientists in the field of geological and space sciences.

He is the first Asian among the five winners to receive the award since its establishment in 1996.

Cabbie killed by robbers

ROBBERS yesterday killed a taxi driver who refused to give his cash earnings.

Rolando Borja, 42, of Sta. Ana, Manila, died from a stab wound in his right neck.

Police said Borja was held up around 2:15 a.m. yesterday.

The robbers allegedly tried to get his earnings amounting to P1,835 but he held on to it.

Police said Borja apparently tried to run away but the suspects caught up with him and stabbed him.

His body was found slumped about 25 meters away from his taxicab. *Tarra Quismundo*

Driver beats red light, is shot dead

By Tarra Quismundo

A MAN who allegedly beat the red light ended up dead at dawn yesterday.

Joseph Asistio, 38, of 2715 Bolinao St., Sta. Cruz, Manila, died of multiple gunshot wounds, including one into his right temple, after allegedly provoking a shootout with three operatives of the Western Police District Mobile Patrol Unit.

SPO2 Virgo Villareal of the WPD Homicide Division said policemen on board WPD patrol car 337 flagged down Asistio at 3:55 a.m. along A. Mabini Street in Malate.

Asistio, who was driving a white Jet motorcycle with plate number WA-2222, had an expired license plate and allegedly beat the red light at the intersection.

But instead of stopping, Asistio allegedly cursed the policemen on board the patrol car.

Asistio sped off but the policemen on board—PO2 Leo Coronado, PO2 Roderick Lacangan, and PO2 Enrique Lazaro—gave chase and cornered Asistio at the intersection in Pedro Gil Street.

Villareal said Lacangan and Lazaro "politely approached" Asistio for a routine check, but Asistio pulled out a .45 caliber that was tucked in his waist.

A shootout ensued, with the police officers firing several shots with their 9 mm pistols as they moved back, Villareal said.

The policemen brought Asistio to the Ospital ng Maynila, said Villareal. Aside from a bullet to the head, Asistio suffered four gunshots in his legs.

After initial investigation, police recovered five empty shells from the 9 mm pistols, and one empty shell from .45 caliber at the scene.

Police also recovered a sachet allegedly containing shabu and an extra .45 caliber magazine from Asistio's motorcycle.

Cops arrest wanted man in Parañaque

By Alcuin Valle Papa

THE ALLEGED leader of the Ilongo crime syndicate, who is wanted with a P50,000 price on his head, was arrested the other day by police in Parañaque City.

A report by the Southern Police District Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (SPD-CIDG) identified the suspect as Michael Condeza, also known as Michael Gumban.

Condeza is included in the 10 wanted men list released by the Department of Interior and Local Government with a P50,000 price on his head. The Ilongo Gang is involved in robbery and other crimes.

Police said they were informed that Condeza was selling pirated video compact discs in San Antonio Valley 2, Parañaque City. A police team responded and immediately arrested the suspect.

Recovered from the suspect were 11 pornographic VCDs and 45 VCDs of assorted movies.

During interrogation, Condeza revealed his true identity.

FAKE BACKPACKS SEIZED
National Bureau of Investigation agents inspect fake JanSport bags which they seized recently during a raid of DS 32-34 General Merchandising store at the New Divisoria Mall in Binondo. The raiders seized more than 2,000 fake bags worth P3.5 million. Charges of copyright infringement and unfair competition will be filed against the owners of the store.

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Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

Pedestrian overpasses to rise on 'clearways'

By Margaux Ortiz

THE SOLUTION to traffic along many of Metro Manila's major thoroughfares has brought sighs of relief to many motorists but has created problems to pedestrians, who now find it hard to cross the once congested roads.

To help people cross roads that have become virtual freeways because of the clearway system employed by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Malacañang has released P100 million for the construction of pedestrian overpasses and foot bridges.

MMDA chair Bayani Fernando said around P400 million was needed to construct 92 pedestrian overpasses along Quezon Avenue, Commonwealth Avenue and Marcos Highway.

"But we are still happy (with the P100 million)," Fernando told reporters after a meeting with President Arroyo and transport groups at the MMDA building in Makati City. "Now we could finally start the project."

Vehicles moving through the three arteries are expected to double their speed after the thoroughfares have been put under the clearway system.

Under the traffic scheme, the MMDA closed all the intersections along these major roads and have instead opened U-turn slots to allow the continuous flow of vehicles.

All the traffic stop lights have also been shut down effectively removing lulls in vehicular flow.

People needing to cross the roads now have to wait for gaps in the stream of cars, jeepneys and trucks just so that they could run toward the other side.

Fernando said pedestrians had began complaining that they could no longer safely cross these thoroughfares.

As an initial solution, MMDA Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios earlier instructed his men to carry big stop signs to assist people in crossing the road.

"With the construction of the footbridges, there would be continuous flow of traffic on the clearway without fearing for the safety of the pedestrians," Fernando said.

MMDA officials had announced that they were going to construct simple metal structures to serve as overpasses.

"*Salubungan lang ang mangyayari* (Pedestrians going opposite directions will use the overpasses)," Vergel de Dios said in a radio interview over the weekend.

He added, "We want to emphasize the functionality, not the attractiveness, of the footbridges."

Vergel de Dios said that vagrants and criminals were turning "pretty" overpasses with roofs into homes. Vendors also use the overpasses to sell their wares.

IN EACH OTHER'S COMFORT
The toddler and his grandfather apparently find comfort in each other as they both take a nap after a stroll at the Manila Bay Walk on Roxas Boulevard. The photo captures the essence of Grandparents' Day which was observed in a quiet but fitting manner on Sunday.
ERIK ARAZAS

Father turns over son to cops for stealing P100,000

By Tarra Quismundo

A YOUNG man spent his return to his hometown in Bicol treating his relatives and friends to drinking sessions and feasts.

Two days later, his father turned him over to police, for stealing cash from a hardware store where he worked.

Niño Merciales, 18, of 1913 Leon Guinto St. Malate, Manila, was taken into custody yesterday for stealing P100,000 worth of cash and checks from Sir Wain Hardware Store on Pedro Gil St., also in Malate, where he worked as a helper.

PO3 Gordius Alumbro of the Western Police District Theft and Robbery Division said Merciales had been the subject of a police manhunt since the incident happened on Sept. 10.

According to Alumbro, Merciales hid in the storage room of the store and stayed there until it was closed at 7 p.m.

At around midnight, when nobody else was around, Merciales came out of his hiding place and opened the drawer where the sales were kept.

With the store's entrance locked, Merciales used a cut a portion of the store's roof and slipped through the opening.

Alumbro said the suspect's mother related that Merciales returned past midnight, barefoot and dirty all over.

Merciales later admitted to the crime.

"I just thought of doing it after I heard them (the owners) talking about firing me," Merciales said in Filipino.

He said he spent most of the cash buying liquor, food and clothes when he went home to Donsol, Sorsogon.

Merciales said he had P5,000 left over from the loot which he claimed he had returned to the owners. Alumbro said they only recovered a check of P22,000.

The police said the suspect faces charges of qualified theft, for which Merciales said he was ready to serve jail time.

Antigambling drive nets 1,077 people

By Nelson Forte Flores

A TOTAL of 1,077 people suspected involved in illegal gambling had been arrested by Task Force Jericho, a special operation group under the Department of Interior and Local Government.

Local Government Secretary Jose Lina Jr. yesterday said the arrests were made during the 204 antigambling operations conducted by the task force since April 27 this year.

Lina cited the report submitted by Task Force Jericho head, Chief Insp. Manuel Cabigon.

Lina added that the operations were done in various areas of Metro Manila and in the cities of Baguio, Lucena and San Pablo.

Raids were also conducted in the provinces of Pampanga, Laguna, Pangasinan, Sorsogon, Tarlac, Camarines Sur, Cagayan, Camarines Norte, Isabela, Batangas, Quezon, Rizal, Nueva Ecija, La Union, Bataan, Zambales, Ilocos Norte, Oriental Mindoro, Abra, Benguet and Cavite.

Cabigon said the operations were part of the DILG's campaign against illegal gambling, especially jueteng. He added that other forms of illegal gambling were targeted by the task force.

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Red Bull greets Burrel with big win over SLR

GAMES WEDNESDAY (*Philsports*)
5:00 p.m.—Purefoods vs Alaska
7:30 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs San Miguel

By June Navarro

SCOTT Burrell inspired Red Bull Barako no end as the Thunder roared to an 89-74 victory over the Sta. Lucia Realtors last night in the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

Burrell, an eight-year NBA veteran and member of the 1998 champion Chicago Bulls, proved an intimidating force as the Thunder dominated the sluggish Realtors throughout after taking a 31-13 lead in the first quarter.

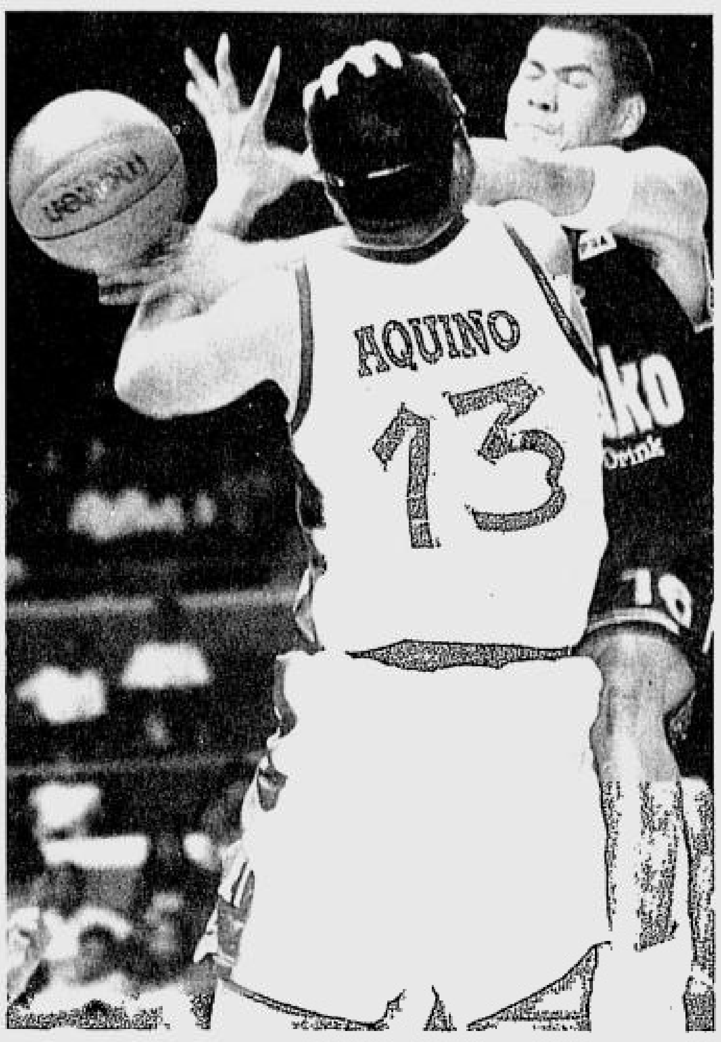
Meanwhile, all 13 players used by new coach Bonnie Garcia scored as the FedEx Express slapped a first loss in four games on Ginebra witha 103-92 victory.

"He's (Burrell) a perfect fit for the team. What sets him apart from other imports is his NBA experience. *Matalino maglaro* (He's an intelligent player)," said Red Bull Barako coach Yeng Guiao.

"That's what you get after playing with Michael Jordan for two years," he added.

Burrell's presence undoubtedly motivated Homer Se, Lordy Tugade and Davonn Harp, who

RED BULL/ A26



HOMER Se (right) of Red Bull Barako knocks the ball away from Sta. Lucia's Marlou Aquino during their Reinforced Conference game yesterday. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

PBA's reinstated players turning in better numbers

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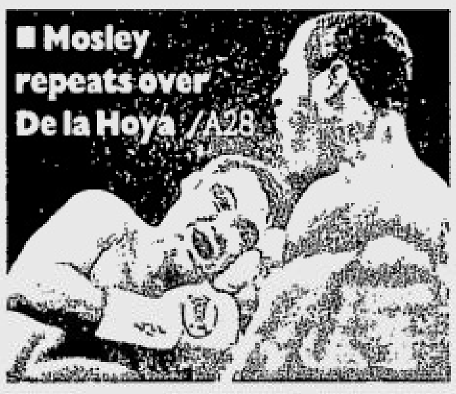
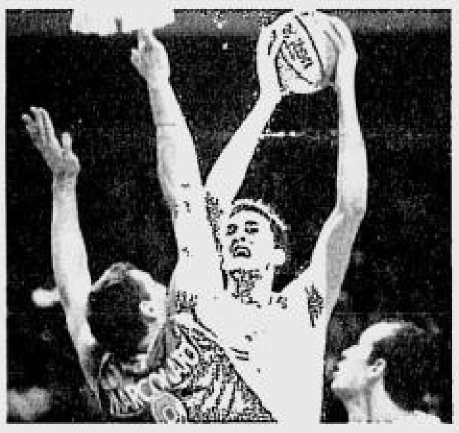


■ Mosley repeats over De la Hoya /A28



■ Lithuania five faces Spain in final /A30

■ UE 'twice' bid intact; FEU catches idle Ateneo /A26

■ Longshot steals show /A32

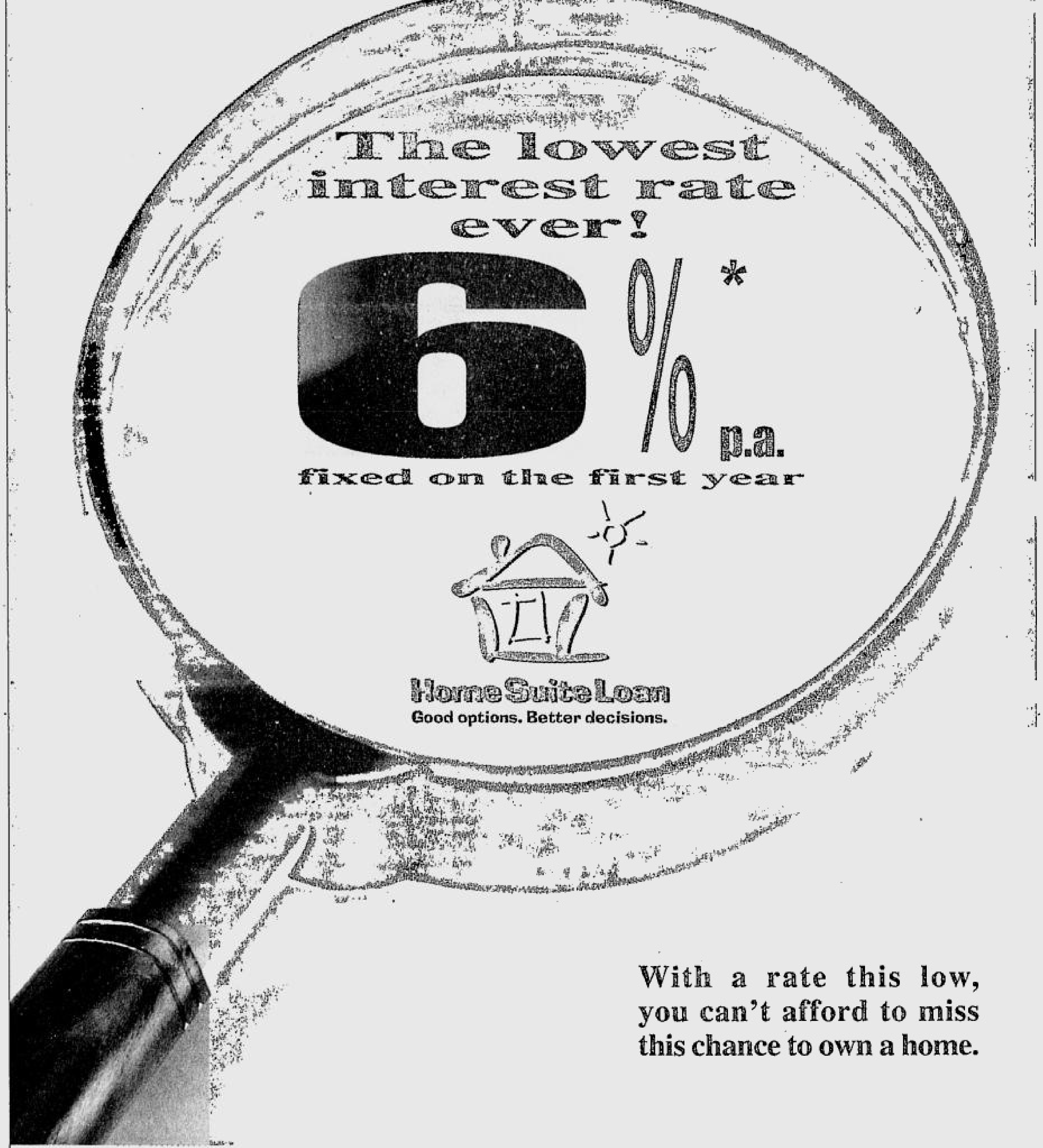
SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA Summer League-Mavs vs Cavs; 11 a.m. (r-7 p.m.); Solar Sports - Dallas gets to see how good Cleveland's LeBron James is in this summer league encounter.

Euro Basket 2003;6:30 p.m.; IBC 13 and Solar Sports; 8:30 p.m.; Solar Sports-See which European country books a ticket to the Athens Olympics in the Finals and Third place match.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL; NFL-Bears vs Vikings; 8:30 a.m. (r-3p.m.); ESPN-Chicago takes on Minnesota in this NFC match-up.



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IAAF commends Asian athletics meet organizers

INTERNATIONAL Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) president Lamine Diack yesterday congratulated the organizing committee of the 15th Asian Amateur Athletics championships slated Sept. 20-23 at the Rizal track oval.

Diack, unanimously reelected during the world athletics congress last month in Paris, France, said he is happy that the Philippines continues to patronize athletics in its national sports calendar.

"The IAAF has a tremendous commitment to the worldwide development of athletics, and this is a big task. Our aim is to create the conditions under which the greatest number of athletes gain the opportunity to perform to their full potential," he said.

Shri Suresh Kalmadi, 3As president, also commended Patafa head Go Teng Kok for "bringing athletics in the forefront and spreading the movement progressively in Asia."

15th Asian Athletics Championships

Kalmadi, a member of the Indian parliament, said athletics has achieved greater heights in Asia and there are plans to hold more competitions.

For his part, Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain said he is "extremely proud to commend the efforts and perseverance of Patafa for bringing this international event in the country where outstanding Asian athletes will converge and display their skills in the name of camaraderie, partnership and unity."

Go said President Macapagal-Arroyo deserves all the credit for supporting the country's second hosting of the event. Ms Macapagal has been invited as guest of honor during the opening ceremony on Sept. 20.

The four-day championships, supported by the PSC, Department of Tourism, Milo, Adidas, Colgate-Palmolive, LG, Microsmith, STI, Cafe Adriatico and the City of Manila, will feature crack athletes from 44 of 45 member countries of the 3As.

Powerhouse teams from China, Japan and the former Soviet republics are expected to dominate the competitions.

Already in town is the Oman contingent of 11 athletes and officials. The rest of the delegations will start arriving today until the eve of the 3As Congress on Sept. 18.

UE 'twice' bid intact; FEU catches idle Ateneo

GAMES THURSDAY *(Araneta Coliseum)*
11 a.m.—UP vs UST (Jrs)
2 p.m.—UP vs UST (Srs)
4 p.m.—La Salle vs UE (Srs)

By Dennis U. Eroa

OLAN Omiping and Paul Artadi shone in the clutch as University of the East repulsed stubborn Adamson, 82-76, yesterday and boosted its bid for the twice-to-beat edge in the Final Four of the UAAP men's basketball championship at the Loyola Gym.

The Warriors struggled in the face of the Falcons' gutsy stand and needed the late explosion of Omiping and the foxy playmaking of Artadi to post their 10th victory in 13 matches.

But to achieve the twice-to-beat privilege, UE has to get past Far Eastern which crushed Santo Tomas, 71-58, in the day's second game to tie the idle Ateneo Eagles for the lead at 11-3.

UE can tie FEU and Ateneo with a win over La Salle (7-6), the last Final Four qualifier, on Thursday.

However, the three-way deadlock automatically gives the No.1 spot to the Eagles on a superior quotient, with UE and FEU going into a playoff to decide who gets the other twice-to-beat edge.

A UE loss to La Salle would give FEU the second twice-to-beat advantage as the outright No. 2 team at the end of the elimination.

"I'm not satisfied with the win. There were so many lapses. We we can't afford to commit the same mistakes in the Final Four," said UE mentor Boyzie Zamar.

Zamar, a member of the squad that gave UE back-to-back championships in 1984 and 1985, also noted that "Adamson played real hard because it wanted to end its season on a high note."

"In the end, UE's character prevailed," Zamar said.

James Yap finished with 26 points but it was Omiping, thanks largely to Artadi's timely passes, who saved the Warriors from a disastrous finish.

Joel Hate, who became a byword when he shattered the Loyola gym's backboard last week, gunned down six free throws as the Falcons threatened, 74-76, with 47 seconds remaining.

Unfazed, Omiping drove hard and fished a foul from Hate on the next play. He calmly sank both charities, 78-74, and Artadi settled the issue with a steal off Ramil Tagupa and an assist to Omiping with 25 seconds left.

Artadi finished with 12 points on top of 12 assists and two steals while Omiping, discovered while playing backyard basketball in Tondo, scored 15.

Adamson ended its season with a 5-9 card while UST saw its record drop to 4-9.

Scores:

Second Game (Srs)

UE 82—Yap 26, Omiping 15, Artadi 12, Canaleta 10, Booker 6, Masbang 4, Estrada 4, Tan 3, Alminario 2, Butel 0, Hubalde 0.

ADAMSON 76—Abadia 20, Hate 18, Cabahug 12, Catabay 8, Gandarosa 6, Tajonera 5, Tagupa 5, Kong 4, Poloyapo 0, Alonzo 0.

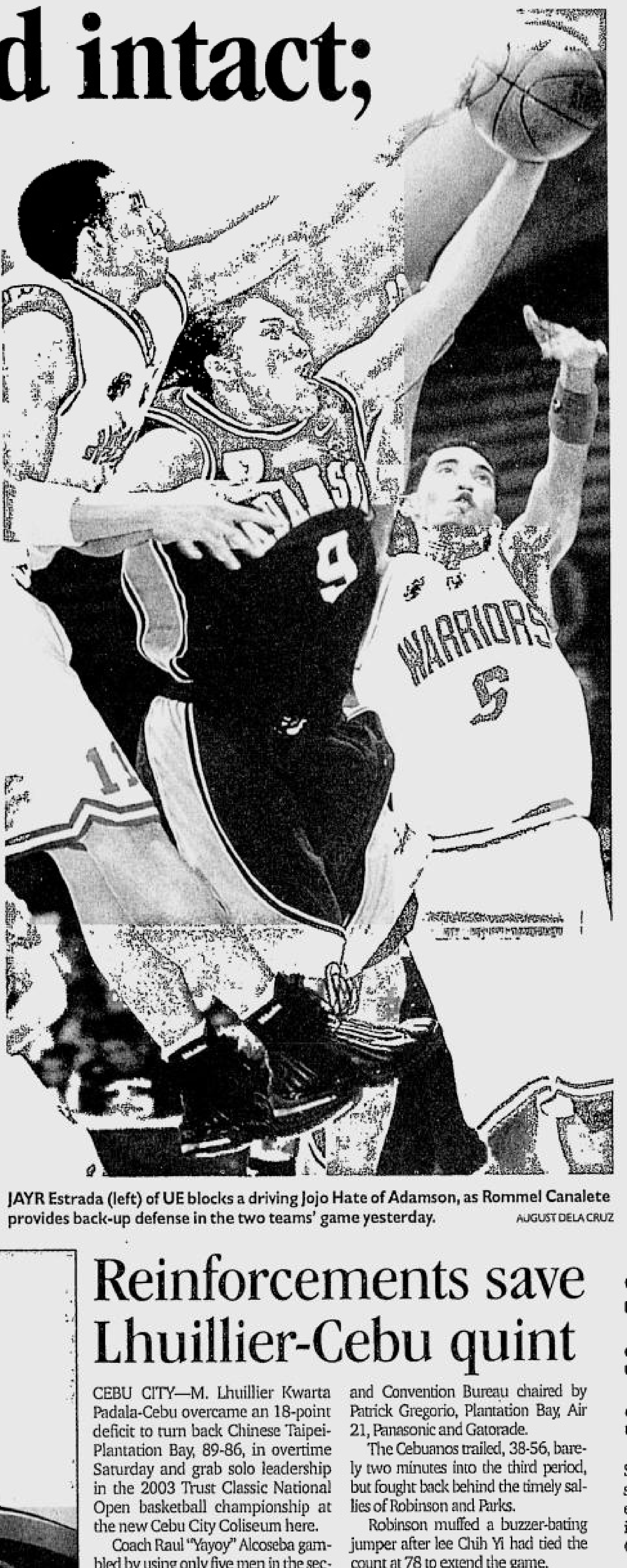
Quarters: 23-18, 44-37, 61-54, 82-76.

Third Game (Srs)

FEU 71—Jones 18, Calli 15, Isip 10, Sinco 8, Miranda 6, Santos 5, Razon 4, Sierra 3, Rizada 2, Chan 0, Yabut 0

UST 58—Espiritu 12, Del Rosario 11, De Guzman 8, Villamin 7, Vizcarra 6, Manansala 6, Luanzon 5, Rateria 3, Evangelista 0, Dizon 0, Hubalde 0.

Quarters: 19-17, 36-26, 47-40, 71-58



JAYR Estrada (left) of UE blocks a driving Jojo Hate of Adamson, as Rommel Canalete provides back-up defense in the two teams' game yesterday. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

UAAP JUNIORS

Bengals save day for La Salle, rip Eaglets

THANKS to its gritty junior basketball team, La Salle salvaged some measure of pride in the UAAP last Sunday at the Araneta Coliseum.

Powered by David Poblete and slippery Simon Atkins, La Salle-Zobel downed Ateneo, 66-58, to enter the Final Four.

The jampacked crowd, which earlier watched Ateneo's defending champion Eagles drub the La Salle Archers, 98-89, in senior play, had already thinned out when the Bengals scored their seventh win in 11 outings.

Ateneo, which is already assured of the twice-to-beat edge in the Final Four, dropped to 10-2, the same record of Adamson, which nipped University of the East, 72-70, at the jampacked Loyola Gym.

The 6-foot-2 Poblete and the 5-foot-8 Atkins led the fighting Bengals with 20 points apiece, while point guard Lope Juban and Kiel Flores combined for 16 points.

A triple by Jose Reyes and a drive by leading MVP contender Ken Barracoso gave the Eaglets a slim, 50-49 lead, 6:51 remaining, but Juban triggered the Bengals' riproaring finish with a triple, 58-50, three minutes remaining.

Poblete, who converted seven of nine tries from the field, also grabbed 12 rebounds, while Paolo Abelardo added nine. Juban and Flores had five assists each.

The Eaglets last threatened at 52-58, but Flores had Bengals fans roaring in delight as he buried a triple to ice the win, 61-52.

Scores:

LA SALLE 66—Poblete 20, Atkins 20, Juban 8 Flores 8, Abelardo 7, Reyes 3, Salvador 0, Ornedo 0.

ATENEO 58—Barracoso 20, Medina 10, Reyes J. 6, Dizon 5, Tuazon 4, Encarnacion 4, Tingzon 2, Nadal 2, Intal 2, Audencial 2, Reyes 1.

Quarters: 14-18, 28-27, 44-40, 66-58.

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Reinforcements save Lhuillier-Cebu quint

CEBU CITY—M. Lhuillier Kwarta Padala-Cebu overcame an 18-point deficit to turn back Chinese Taipei-Plantation Bay, 89-86, in overtime Saturday and grab solo leadership in the 2003 Trust Classic National Open basketball championship at the new Cebu City Coliseum here.

Coach Raul "Yayoy" Alcoseba gambled by using only five men in the second half and extra time, and it paid off as Darryl Smith, Woodraw Enriquez, Bobby Parks, Corey Brown and Geremy Robinson rewarded him with the Cebuanos' second straight win in the five-team international cagefest.

Burlington-NBL bounced back from a disappointing loss to Qatar-Ricor Friday by whipping RP-Air 21, 80-70, in the opener.

Robinson earlier emerged as "Slam Dunk King" in the tournament organized by National Basketball League and sponsored by Trust Classic, Waterfront Hotel-Cebu City, Cebu Visitors and Convention Bureau chaired by Patrick Gregorio, Plantation Bay, Air 21, Panasonic and Gatorade.

The Cebuanos trailed, 38-56, barely two minutes into the third period, but fought back behind the timely sallies of Robinson and Parks.

Robinson muffed a buzzer-bating jumper after lee Chih Yi had tied the count at 78 to extend the game.

Scores:

First Game

BURLINGTON-NBL 80—Robillos 16, Santos 12, Manuel 9, Reyes 8, Alberto 8, Sta. Maria 7, Menor 7, Dais 3, Habelito 2, Macarig 0.

RP-AIR 21 70—Borboran 19 Santos 13 Te 11, Reroma 8, Ilad 6, chua 4, Baracael 3, Apat 2, Buen 2, Gabica 2, Sumalinog 0.

Second Game

LHUILLIER 89—Robinson 25, Parks 23, Smith 16, Enriquez 15, Brown 6, Rodriguez 4, Dacia 0, Ocanada 0, Lumantas 0, Reyes 0.

CT-PLANTATION BAY 86—Tien 15, Yang YM 12, Yang TY 10, Cheh 9, Ho 9, Lee 8, Wu 8, Chan 7, Lin 6, Yen 2, Tseng 0, Wu CY 0.

St. Benedict scores 7th straight win

ST. BENEDICT College streaked to its sixth straight win and St. Scholastica's College exploited its homecourt advantage to post its first victory Saturday in the 34th WNCAA-adidas senior basketball tournament.

SBC beat Miriam College, 53-44, to remain unbeaten, while its victim fell to 2-2.

St. Scholastica then broke a seven-game losing skid, beating Emilio Aguinaldo College-Manila, 52-43.

EAC-M is the only winless squad in the 10-team field with a 0-7 card.

College of Saint Benilde held on to the No.3 spot at 4-1 by downing Rizal Technological University, 82-26.

RTU dropped to 2-4.

Assumption College improved to 3-4 following its 45-39 win over host Siena College of Quezon City, which absorbed its third setback in six matches.

Red Bull greets Burrel with big win over SLR

From page A25

all posted double figures as the Thunders avoided a third straight loss for an even 2-2 card.

"With Burrell, the team looks good. The players know if they have a good import or not. Psychologically, that makes a difference. They are (now) more confident and inspired," said Guiao.

Burrell, who had a day's rest before the game with the Realtors, debuted with 19 points on top of 11 rebounds, six steals and four assists in an almost effortless 38-minute performance.

"He's coachable. He can score if he wants to and can play defense as well. *Wala kaming iniba sa sistema* (We didn't change anything) but Burrell easily adopted to the system," said Guiao.

By dumping Ramel Lloyd in favor of the 6-foot-5 Burrell, the Thunder snapped and moved a game ahead of tailender Shell in Group B.

The Thunder inflicted the Realtors' first setback in three games, leaving the idle Coca-Cola Tigers and the Barangay Ginebra Kings as the only unbeaten teams in the season-ending conference.

Scores:

First Game

RED BULL BARAKO 89—Harp 25, Burrell 19, Se 14, Tugade 13, Miller 4, Torion 4, Valenzuela 3, Pennisi 3, Robinson 2, Villanueva 2, Viloria 0.

STA. LUCIA 74—James 19, Espino 15, Aquino 13, Mendoza 8, Francisco 5, Tan 5, Victolero 4, Webb 3, Ong 2, Bal-og 0, Adriano 0.

Quarters: 31-13, 44-26, 69-45, 89-74

Second Game

FEDEX 103 — Shannon 18, Meneses 15, Ferriols 13, Ritualo 11, Codinera 10, De Ocampo 7, Arboleda 7, Ejercito 6, Rodriguez 4, Billones 4, Ortiguera 4, Bernardo 2, Yap 2

GINEBRA 92— Limpot 24, Price 23, Caguioa 10, Adducul 7, Johnson 6, David 4, Salvacion 3, Calpito 2, Crisano 2, Ballesteros 2, Dimaunahan 0.

Quarters: 26-23, 58-42, 81-67, 103-92

Improved numbers for Limpot, two others

By June Navarro

THREE of the players reinstated by the Commissioner's Office after serving suspensions for flunking the league's drug test have logged improved numbers in the ongoing Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference.

Jun Limpot of Barangay Ginebra and Red Bull Barako's Davonn Harp and Jimwell Torion have already compiled figures slightly superior to their stats when they were sacked.

Harp, eager to prove his worth after a three-month suspension, posted an average of 17 points, 11.7 rebounds and 1.3 blocks in the Thunder's first three games.

Those numbers are a big improvement to the 13.6 points, 9.4 rebounds and 0.9 blocked shots Harp registered in 18 games prior to his suspension.

Torion, the only cager who admitted his guilt among the nine punished by the PBA for drug use, had an average of 11.3 points and seven rebounds, better than his 9.6 points and 4.3 rebounds in the All Filipino Conference.

LIMPOT: Better scoring output

HARP: All-around brilliance

Limpot, who sprang back to action just a week ago, averaged 21 points from his old 17.3 scoring pace and committed fewer turnovers (from 3.3 to 1.5 a game).

A rebound short of matching his old average of 6.7 rebounds, Limpot logged those figures with an average playing time of 26 minutes, a far cry from the 34.5 minutes he spent on the floor during the All Filipino Conference.

Limpot is also sharper this time, making 18 of 33 attempts from the field for a 54.5-percent shooting clip that is way above his 43.9 field-goal percentage (111-253) at the start of the season.

The 6-foot-8 Harp also enhanced his field-goal percentage from 49 percent (102-208) in the first conference to 50 percent (21-42) in the season-ending conference.

Ginebra's Alex Crisano, reactivated two weeks ago, jacked up his scoring average from 3.8 to 4.7 points a game.

But Crisano's rebounding slightly suffered from 3.6 to 3.3 per game in almost 11 minutes of action.

However, the presence of imports has reduced the playing time of Noli Locsin for Talk 'N Text, and FedEx Express' Ryan Bernardo has not even seen action.

Locsin, who used to play at least 12.5 minutes and post 5.6 points and 2.5 rebounds per game, has logged only a total of 10 minutes in two games.

On both occasions, Locsin failed to score and grabbed a total of three rebounds.

Concert to cap Eagle inaugural

FROM the break of dawn until late this coming Saturday, members and guests attending the inaugural weekend of the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Gen. Trias, Çavite, will be kept busy by numerous sports activities topped off by a Apo Hiking Society concert and a fireworks display.

The main sports event is the Fore x Four member-guest which will put into focus the enormity of the complex as Eagle Ridge's four courses—Aoki, Dye, Faldo and Norman—host tournaments, each having its own sponsors and formats.

It will be a one-of-a-kind, four-in-one tourney that will be staged to celebrate the completion of one of Asia's biggest golf clubs.

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In the news

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1 > 3 Pts.
☐ True / ☐ False: The Argentina beat United States for the gold medal at the FIBA Tournament of the Americas in San Juan, Puerto.

2 > 5 Pts.
Ian Piencenaves defeated Kennevic Asuncion to retain his men's title at the JVC Open ______________ Championships Saturday in Makati.

☐ Badminton
☐ Fencing

3 > 7 Pts.
At the World University Games in Daegu, South Korea, which country easily claimed the overall title with 81 medals, 41 of them gold?
☐ United States
☐ China
☐ Russia

4 > 10 Pts.
The Little League girls' team of which city got a P1-million bonus from President Macapagal-Arroyo for winning the 13-14 age division of the Softball World Series in Kirkland, Washington?

☐ Bacolod City
☐ Pasig City
☐ Zamboanga City

5 > 20 Pts.
Name the reigning—and youngest ever—FIDE world chess champion who was supposed to meet Garry Kasparov in a 12-match showdown in Yalta, Ukraine.
☐ Vladimir Kramnik (Russia)
☐ Viswanathan Anand (India)
☐ Ruslan Ponomariov (Ukraine)
☐ Peter Leko (Hungary)

6 > 25 Pts.
At the recent World Athletics Championships in Paris, France, which American swept the women's 100- and 200-meter sprints but later tested positive for a controversial stimulant?
☐ Kelli White
☐ Corbillon Cup
☐ Gail Devers
☐ Marion Jones

7 > 30 Pts.
Brute and the Beast: Plans are afoot for a martial arts bout in Tokyo between Iron Mike Tyson and a former American football player who's currently one of the top K-1 stars in Japan. Who's this 'Beast'?

Beam-Zest-O race open to all

THE BEAM-Zest-O Patakbong Pinoy will carry the theme "Proud to be Pinoy" when the twice-monthly running event blasts off with its Manila race on Oct. 5 at the Raja Sulaiman Park.

Nelson Macaraig, of the organizing Media Runners and Sports Promotions and Jonel Promotions, said the theme fits the 5-K race that is backed by the Manila Sports Council, which hopes to encourage people to try out running.

"The Patakbong Pinoy hopes to make even short-distance races like this very competitive, to lure more people," said Macaraig. "The tag 'Proud to be Pinoy' gives it an identity."

The organizers have opened the race to all runners, including those below 18 years old. They need only to show their school identification cards and submit the entry form as well as a P30 entry fee and a carton of Beam Toothpaste.

Registration is ongoing at the San Andres Sports Complex in Malate, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday to Friday. For inquiries, call 0917-6911259 and 0919-5399572.

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SPORTSWATCH

Prosperidad captures Mayor's Cup

THE STRIKERS of Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur beat Black River to lift the Mayor Nestor Corvera Football Cup at the Prosperidad football ground. Forward Romer Cultura ripped the back of the Black River net in the 5th minute with a volley from inside the box and Lodovic Cena scored from the spot just two minutes later to give their squad a 2-0 lead in the early going. Mark Dinglasan scored on a header in the 19th minute for Black River's only goal. The tournament was organized by Agusan del Sur Football Association president Eric Pocon and sponsored by the municipal government of Prosperidad.

Makati range offers rainy day rates

AS many golfers postpone their rounds due to the unpredictable weather, the hi-tech Makati Golf Club range in Bel-Air is offering a refuge with its Rainy Days promo where the usual rates have been slashed down to as much as 50 percent. Golfers are bound to enjoy the Hit All You Can! Fever at the country's only automated driving range starting today until October 31. The day rate (from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.) is now just P150 per hour on the second floor and P100 per hour on the third floor while the Night Rate (from 5 p.m. to closing) is P200 per hour on the second floor and P150 on the third. Side by side with the Rainy Days Promo are the special sales of equipment dealers of the Golf Mall also housed at the Makati range. For inquiries, call 830-2222 or visit the range at 7232 Malugay St., Bel-Air, Makati.

NCA 7-stag derby fires off today

COCKFIGHT aficionados are expected to troop back to the Araneta Coliseum today to see heart-stopping matches in the National Cockers Association (NCA) 7-Stag Derby, the second of five NCA stagfests scheduled this year. Former ambassador Danding Cojuangco and newspaper publisher Butch Macasaet ruled the first leg on Sept. 1 and 3. Macasaet's bet, Greenwood Balbina I, also topped the Ucap Firebird 7-Stag Derby last Friday. Today's hosts are Gov. Ito Ynares, Boy Jiao and John Capinpin. Expected to field their new battlecrosses are Macasaet, former congressman Rudy Albano, Nene Araneta, Gov. Ito Ynares, Jun Santiago, Pico Berin, Mario Villamor, Louie Cua, Jun and Rudy Jingco, Gerry Ramos, Edgar Santos, Matt Bittanga, John Capinpin, Alex and Gerry Escalona.

Roligon festival submission of weights up

COUNTING on the massive support of cockers and gamefowl breeders across the country, promoter Rolly Ligon expects no less than 170 entries in Roligon Mega Cockpit's Stag Festival 5-stag Derby slated Sept. 16, 18 and 20. Entry fee is P6,600 while the guaranteed prize is P1.2 million. The submission of entries, with corresponding wingband numbers, is set today from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Participants may call 833-2275 ad 833-1638 for details. Each day's two pointers in the elimination round will receive a prize of P70,000, with P20,000 going to the entry with the fastest kill. The fastest kill champion on Sept. 20 will get P70,000. Stags banded by Mimi Itchon and Danny Ty for the "Showdown" derby may also be fielded, Ligon said.

THE LEO Burnett Manila team bagged the first runner-up honors in the recently concluded darts competition among 14 contending agencies of the Accredited Advertising Agencies of the Philippines (4A's-P) held at the National Sports Grill in Greenbelt, Makati. Members of the team are, from left: Jojo Metrillo, Joni Arriola, Boyet Alvero, Astrid Figuracion, Vlad Rubis, Sixto Pablico and Dean delos Santos.

GOLD'S Gym Philippines recently launched its first team grouping called Gold's Gym Gorgeous Gang of Eight, which is comprised of top models from the Professional Models Association (PMAP) and outstanding members of Gold's Gym. Among the professional models in the group are Robbie Mananquil, Nicolette Belle, Ryan Villareal, Valerie delos Santos, Mikee Carreon and Bianca Valerio. The launch highlighted workout and exercise demos by the G8.

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Mosley repeats over De la Hoya

Furious ex-champ to protest verdict

LAS VEGAS, Nevada—Shane Mosley regained his status as an elite fighter with a unanimous but controversial decision over Oscar de la Hoya to capture the World Boxing Council and World Boxing Association's 154-pound titles.

All three judges scored the 12-round fight, 115-113, in favor of Mosley, who landed less punches but impressed the judges with a number of powerful shots.

"I won by power and speed and the most effective shots," said Mosley, who registered his second-straight win over de la Hoya. "I had the more powerful punches and was a lot stronger than he was."

De la Hoya thought he had won the all-American clash. At the end of the 12th round he climbed the ropes and raised both hands over his head. He announced he would protest the decision.

Floyd Mayweather, de la Hoya's trainer, also blasted the decision and said de la Hoya fought a perfect fight.

"These old judges are blind and senile. Clearly Oscar won the fight," said Mayweather.

"He got a little tired in the eleventh but he picked it up in the 12th. I don't know what he has to do to win a fight."

Mosley looked surprised as the judges' scores were read out and many in the crowd booed the announcement. A number of fights broke out in the stands as chairs and beer bottles were tossed about.

"Maybe my style is a little difficult for him," said Mosley. "I was a lot stronger than the first time I fought him. He is a great warrior and I take my hat off to him."

De la Hoya, 30, said he would protest and was prepared to spend a part of his $17 million purse on the investigation.

MOSLEY: I was a lot stronger. AFP

"I feel something is wrong," said de la Hoya. "I will get to the bottom of this. I am not doing this because I am a sore loser.

"I feel the decision should have gone to me. On Monday I will push for a full investigation."

De la Hoya was looking to avenge the earlier defeat to Mosley—the only indisputable loss of his illustrious career. De la Hoya said the numbers show he clearly won Saturday's rematch.

"I threw 615 punches to his 500 and landed 106 jabs to his 33 jabs," said de la Hoya. "I have the finances to put the best lawyers on it. Boxing does not need this. I am getting tired of this."

De la Hoya started strong, dominating the early rounds before suffering a cut near his right eye in the fourth round from an accidental head butt. The judges felt de la Hoya faded in the later rounds, giving Mosley the final four rounds.

Mosley was a 2 to 1 underdog going into the fight and his guaranteed purse of $4.5 million paled in comparison to de la Hoya's $17 million.

Mosley beat de la Hoya in a split decision three years ago in Los Angeles for the WBC welterweight title.

Mosley, 32, needed to win this fight to prove his first victory was no fluke.

"All I know is I won the fight," said Mosley. "I also won a couple of fights I lost but what can you do."

Mosley started slow Saturday but fought much better in the second half, especially from round nine on after he had a tense exchange between rounds with his corner men.

De la Hoya had the edge in punches-that-connected 36 percent to 26 percent and jabs 26-12. But Mosely landed more power punches 41-36.

Mosley rose to 39-2, with 35 knockouts; De la Hoya dropped to 36-3, 29 KOs. But Mosley has fought unknowns and suffered some setbacks since his stunning first win over De la Hoya.

De la Hoya said earlier he would retire if he lost to Mosley. When pressed about retirement he declined to answer.

Former heavyweight champ George Foreman didn't agree with the verdict.

"This is terrible. This is not what boxing is supposed to be. De la Hoya won," said Foreman. *AFP*

MOSLEY jolts De la Hoya w

Rivera de unbeater seizes W

BERLIN—American Jose vera won the vacant W welter title Saturday wit close decision over previou unbeaten German Mich Trabant.

Rivera (37-3-1 with knockouts) floored the Gern in the second round with a ri hook, got hammered with so clean shots through the mid rounds, and then took con when Trabant ran out of ste

Fight judges mightier than the computer

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

OF the two great combatants, Oscar De la Hoya made the bigger promise. He said he would be sharper, stronger. A better fighter as a whole.

Unfortunately, the Golden Boy failed to deliver the promised package.

He also failed himself.

Shane Mosley? The winner and new champ did not have to play it loud to sell yesterday's main event in noisy, glittering Las Vegas.

While De la Hoya was doing his thing, telling how he would avenge his loss to the same fellow three years ago, Mosley quietly made a class act. He simply refused to listen to what De la Hoya had to brag about in the run-off to yesterday's world junior middleweight boxing championship.

Said Mosley: "As for you (Oscar) being a new and improved fighter, you're still the same to me."

Of course, Mosley did come ready to battle a new Golden Boy.

It was just too bad that De la Hoya, appearing trim, neat and pretty, loomed more perfect for a Hollywood gallant saga shoot than a yours-or-mine world boxing title clash as he was ushered into the ring to a serenade of violins.

On the whole, he was often slow, tentative and thereby ended up also jilting ringside fans, who started to chant Mosley's name in the late rounds.

***

It was not a bad fight De la Hoya had put up.

The Golden Boy was courage personified mainly in the final round, when he shunned blood dripping from his eyebrow to bang it up with Mosley.

The post-game stats could not lie, either. De la Hoya should be upheld in his claim that he had landed the more punches.

But more than the mathematical intricacies, the judges, who obviously favored the more solid, quality punches landed, cannot be blamed for picking who they believe was the rightful winner.

There was also this random sidestreet vote that De la Hoya was somewhat better when he lost by split decision to Mosley in June 2000.

Of course, unlike in his first fight with Mosley, De la Hoya yesterday refused to fade and instead finished with a flourish.

Again, it was a good fight De la Hoya had waged, but it was not good enough to gain the nod of the mighty judges.

***

One thing that should've easily favored De la Hoya was the new heavier division, 154 lbs., unlike in his first loss to Mosley when they battled at 147, the welterweight limit.

It was easy to believe that De la Hoya, being the taller of the two fighters, would've profited physically as he could be more proficient in the junior middleweight class than the shorter Mosley.

It was not to be. Based on the early rounds, which De la Hoya had sort of dominated in the first clash with Mosley, the Golden Boy often appeared loose, tense.

Not Mosley, as the underdog flashed sustained danger with a lively, sharp, pressing attack.

All three judges submitted identical 115-113 votes.

This reporter called it 115-114 for Mosley, scoring the final round even.

***

As could be expected, De la Hoya did not keep the promise that he would retire if Mosley beats him a second time.

De la Hoya has reason to believe he had won. In fact, it was said that he would press for an investigation to unravel a suspected gangland grip behind yesterday's championship result.

Here at home, the most vocal among the protesters was Hermie Rivera, boxing scholar and maker of world champions, who rued the fact that the fighter who had landed the more number of punches lost it in the official cards.

"Those boxing bums, including the judges, should be rounded up," Rivera exclaimed. He said television fight host Ronnie Nathanielsz similarly believed De la Hoya had been robbed of victory by the judges.

He said dirty money must've changed hands.

A hometown decision in his (De la Hoya's) own hometown?

Depends on which fighter you had put your beer money on.

Now, as this is the sort of conflict that cannot be resolved through a poll, the best we could hope for is a Mosley-De la Hoya Part III.

No more violins, but expect Golden Boy to again do all the selling with even loftier promises.

Torred, Ambasa rule GenSan Milo elims

GENERAL SANTOS City— Demetrio Torred and Mona Liza Ambasa won the regional elimination leg of the 27th National Milo Marathon in contrasting fashion here yesterday.

More than 3,100 runners took part in the race, with Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chair Bayani Fernando firing the opening gun at the GenSan Freedom Park.

Torred engaged runner-up Gerry Libot in a sprint finish and crossed the endline one second ahead with a time of one hour, eight minutes and 27 seconds.

"Magkadikit lang kami niyan (Libot) *pagbalik namin dito,"* said the 25-year-old Torred. *"Sa* final 800 meters *na lang ako humataw at naiwan ko siya."*

Libot's feat went for naught, however, when he was disqualified for running under a different name.

He was asked by race organizer Rudy Biscocho and local coordinator Vic Sai to present an identification card to prove his residency in Region 12, but all he could show was an ID in the name Jeffrey Quipao.

MARATHON WINNERS: The three male qualifiers in yesterday's Milo GenSan elimination run display their trophies with Milo Sports Executive Pat Goc-Ong, (extreme right), Mel Baquiano, regional sales manager, (second from right) and Clement Asencio, vice chair GenSan City Sports Board (extreme left). Demetrio Torred topped the race while Mario Dabon and Hernanie Sore placed second and third.

Moving up to second in the 20-kilometer run was Mario Dabon (1:09:05). Third place went to Hernanie Sorie (1:10:05).

Torred, Dabon and Sore, along with the top three finishers in the women's division, advanced to the 42-K National Finals on Oct. 19 Metro Manila, which is held in pa nership with Cebu Pacific, Bayvi Park Hotel, Adidas, Department Tourism and Powerbar.

In the distaff race, Ambasa won h second straight leg title despite ru ning with a minor injury yesterday.

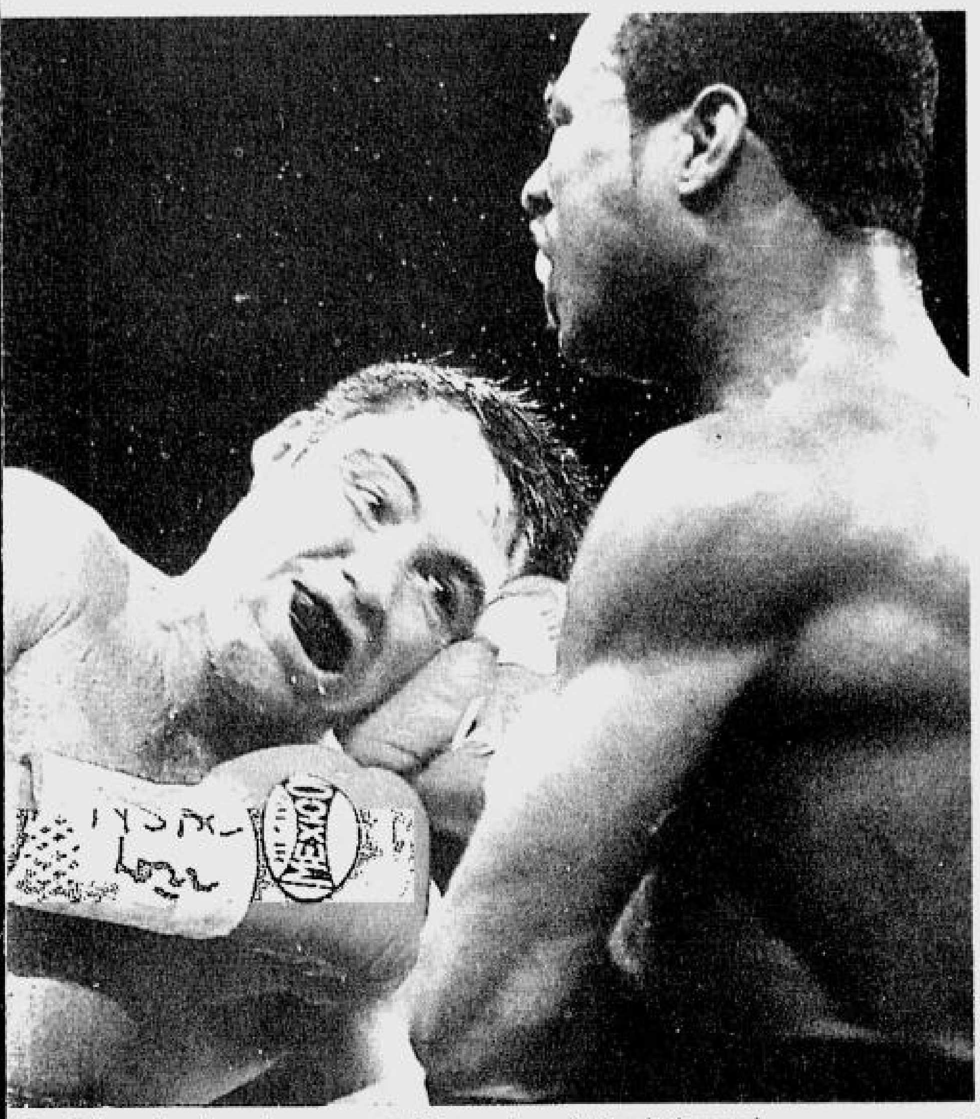
*"May sumasakit sa tuhad ko 'pag t matakbo ako, pero kinaya ko na la para mag-*qualify *sa* finals," said the 2 year-old winner, who clocked 1:29: *"Mabuti na lang at wala akong mabi gat na kalaban dito."*

Ambasa placed third in the Natio Finals last year.

The other two qualifiers from t region were Joylyn Salvilla (1:53:1 and Agnes Diaz (1:53:59).

In the 5-K fun run, Stephen Bra beat Reselle Perez and Benjie Ibañez rule the men's race.

Grazel Nulla topped the ladies ra edging Pearl Gonzales and April D down the wire.



ith a right as the champion momentarily loses steam in the ninth round. AFP

ecisions n Trabant, BA title

Ri- 3A a ly el 25 in ht ne lle ol m

in the final three rounds.

The judges ruled the fight 116-114 and 116-111 for the American and 114-114.

Trabant (38-1) had a slight lead on the scorecards after rocking Rivera with lefts in the eighth and ninth rounds.

On the undercard, Germany's Felix Sturm won the WBO middleweight title with a split decision against Javier Velazco of Argentina. *AP*

RIVERA celebrates after winning against Trabant at the Berlin Convention Center. AFP

SOLHEIM CUP

Sorenstam, Pettersen, fire Europe into the lead

LODDEKOPINGE, Sweden—Annika Sorenstam never leapt so high, thrusting her arms skyward with such might that her putter slipped from her hands like a baton.

Laura Diaz never looked so low, wiping tears from her eyes as she left the green.

The final two holes Saturday brought a sudden change in emotion and momentum, and gave Europe a strong grip on the Solheim Cup.

Sorenstam and Suzann Pettersen denied another late charge by the Americans at Barseback Golf & Country Club, making birdies on the final three holes for a 1-up victory that gave Europe a 9½-6½ lead going into the final round of singles matches.

But it's far from over.

No one steered Europe quite like Sorenstam and Pettersen.

SORENSTAM

With Diaz already in the hole for birdie on the 17th hole of a better-ball match, she and Kelly Robbins were poised to take a 1-up lead into the final hole.

Sorenstam wasn't about to let it get away that quickly, not in her own country.

She knew her 20-foot birdie putt from the fringe was good as soon as it left her putter. "The putt on 17, I won't forget in a long time," Sorenstam said.

Europe needs all the points it can get.

Singles matches are what the Americans do best. They trailed 9-7 last year in Minnesota and won 8½ points on the final day for victory. They trailed by the same margin in 1996 in Wales and won 10 of the final 12 matches.

The Americans had to rally to keep it close after getting whipped again in the morning alternate-shot session. The best they could do were two halves, and for the first time in Solheim Cup history, they failed to win an alternate-shot match.

Juli Inkster and Beth Daniel renewed their Hall of Fame pairing in the first better-ball match Saturday and won, 5 and 4, against Mhairi McKay and Ana Belen-Sanchez, who played for the first time all week. *AP*

MIÑOZA studies his line of putt in file photo. ROMY HOMILLADA

Miñoza ties for 11th in Suntory Open; Rosales shines, too

FRANKIE Miñoza birdied the 18th hole for a one-over-par 72 and salvaged a share of 11th place in the Suntory Open at the Chiba Country Club in Chiba, Japan, where Indian Jyoti Randhawa scored a breakthrough victory.

The 43-year-old Miñoza struggled with three bogeys on the first three holes but came back with three birdies against a bogey in the back nine.

He finished with a 286 aggregate for his second best showing this season after a ninth place finish in the Sun Chlorella Classic early last month.

The feat was worth 1,905,714 yen (about P892,900) for the Filipino who moved up to 62nd from 66th in the money list with total winnings of 9,141,677 yen (about P4.2 million) in 13 starts.

In Taipei, Taiwan, Gerald Rosales closed out with a 73-288 and settled for a tie for 11th place in the $300,000 Mercuries Masters, won by local bet Li Wen-Ko in an impressive, come-from-behind fashion at the Taiwan Golf and Country Club.

Li, down by two after 54 holes, edged three-day leader Thongchai Jaidee by a stroke despite a 73 as the Thai soared to a 76.

Rosales earned $5,958 (about P326,000).

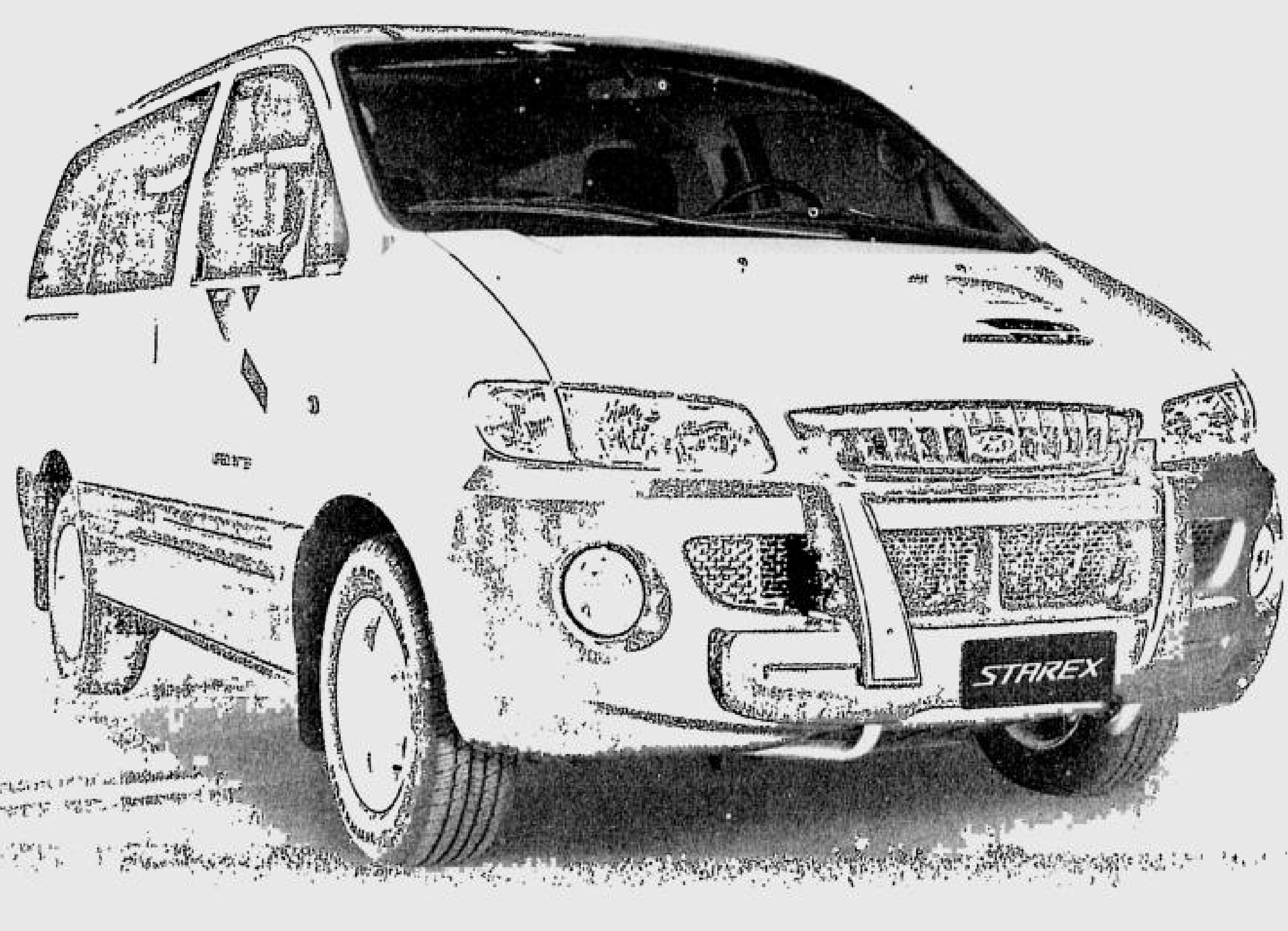
Danny Zarate, making the most of his last-minute inclusion after Friday's round, submitted his best round of the week—a 69—to share 18th with three others worth $4,161 (about P228,000).

The 31-year-old Randhawa made three birdies on a four-hole stretch from the eighth on the way to a two-under 69, holding off Paul Sheehan for his biggest ever victory as a pro.

Randhawa, also a competitive shooter back home in New Delhi, wound up two strokes ahead of Sheehan, who also had a 69, with a 276 total.

American star Phil Mickelson broke par for the first time in three days, carding a 69 to join the big group sharing 18th place at 286.

Inquirer wires, with Jong Arcano



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EUROPE QUALIFIER

Lithuania 5 faces Spain in final

STOCKHOLM—Lithuania marched into the European basketball championship final beating France 74-70 on Saturday and securing a place at the 2004 Olympics in Athens.

In Sunday's final it will meet Spain, which edged out Italy 81-79 in the other semifinal. France and Italy will face each other for third place in a game that will decide the last European Olympic spot.

The top three teams of the European championship, excluding Greece and Serbia & Montenegro, qualify for the Olympic tournament. Greece, as Olympic hosts, automatically qualify while Serbia & Montenegro go into the tournament as world champions. Both teams lost in the quarterfinals here.

It was a thrilling win for Lithuania, which was clearly stronger than the French favorites in the first two quarters.

Going into the third quarter it led 45-37 but France raised its game, shoring up its defense and causing some hesitation in the Lithuania attack.

France finished the quarter with a 60-58 lead after two points by San Antonio Spurs guard Tony Parker, by far its best player of the game with 24 points, including four three-pointers.

Lithuania was down 65-70 in the final quarter but found fresh impetus to score nine points in a row and clinch the win.

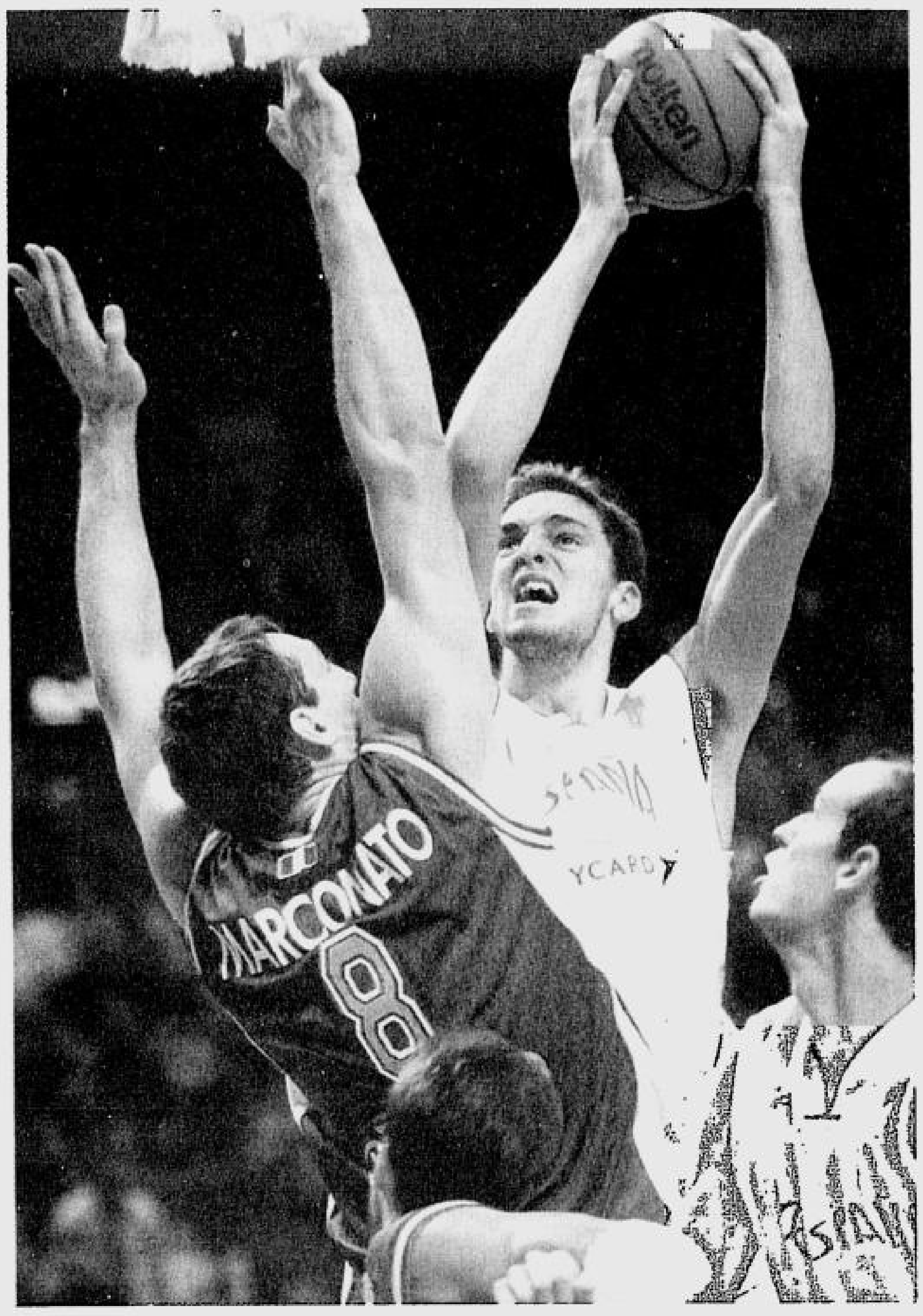
Saulius Stombergas stood out in the Lithuanian team with 22 points and five rebounds alongside point guard Sarunas Jasikevicius, 11 points and 10 rebounds, and Eurelijus Zukauskas, 12 points and seven rebounds.

Underdogs Italy put on a brave performance against Spain, the tournament's most impressive team. Massimo Bulleri scored 24 points for the Italians, who led 44-38 after the first two quarters.

But Spain was too strong in the third period which it won 24-16 to take a 62-60 lead. The final period was desperately close and finished 19-19 after a miss in the last seconds by Bulleri, which meant Spain won by just two points.

Pau Gasol turned in another fine performance scoring 14 points, but he was eclipsed for once by a teammate as Juan-Carlos Navarro grabbed 23 points. *Reuters*

- The championship match will be telecast on Solar Sports and IBC-13 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The battle for third place will be shown on Solar Sports at 8:30 p.m.


PAU Gasol (right) unleashes a jumper against Jose Marconato of Italy. AP

Shock seek equalizer

DETROIT—The Detroit Shock need another remarkable turnaround.

The Shock saved their franchise with an incredible reversal this season, finishing with a league-best record after just nine wins a year ago.

Detroit needs a victory in Game 2 of the WNBA Finals on Sunday to extend the two-time defending champion Los Angeles Sparks to a decisive third game.

The Sparks built a 21-point first-half lead on their way to a 75-63 victory and a 1-0 lead Friday night. The second game of the best-of-three final is at The Palace of Auburn Hills. The Shock will host Game 3 on Tuesday, if necessary. *AP*

PNP, Navy table tennis bets lead early winners

PAUL Puentespina of PNP and Johanne Remaneses of Navy sparkled to lead other early winners in the two-day qualifier of the first LG Table Tennis age-group invitational championships at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum yesterday.

Puentespina swamped Zigg King of Kalayaan, 11-4, 11-7, 11-2, while Remaneses turned back Marco Magpantay of College of St. Benilde, 11-8, 9-11, 11-13, 11-2, 11-5, in the men's 30-under division.

Also reaching the next round were Jennifer Macapugas of CSB and Anna Laguardia of UE in the women's 25-under class, and Jetrho Reuel Yatco in the boys' 10-under category of the tournament held under the auspices of the Table Tennis Association of the Philippines (Tatap).

Macapugas trimmed Michelle Zuloaga of Ateneo, 11-5, 13-11, 11-3, while Laguardia tripped Carolina Picache of Cavite, 11-8, 11-8, 9-11, 8-11, 11-5. Yatco walloped Patrick John Flores, 11-1, 8-11, 11-7, 9-11, 11-5.

Chien prevails

ORANGE, California—Chien Yu-Hsiu of Taiwan defeated South Korea's Ahn Hyun Suk, 5-15, 15-6, 15-12 Saturday to claim the men's singles title at the US Open Badminton Championships.

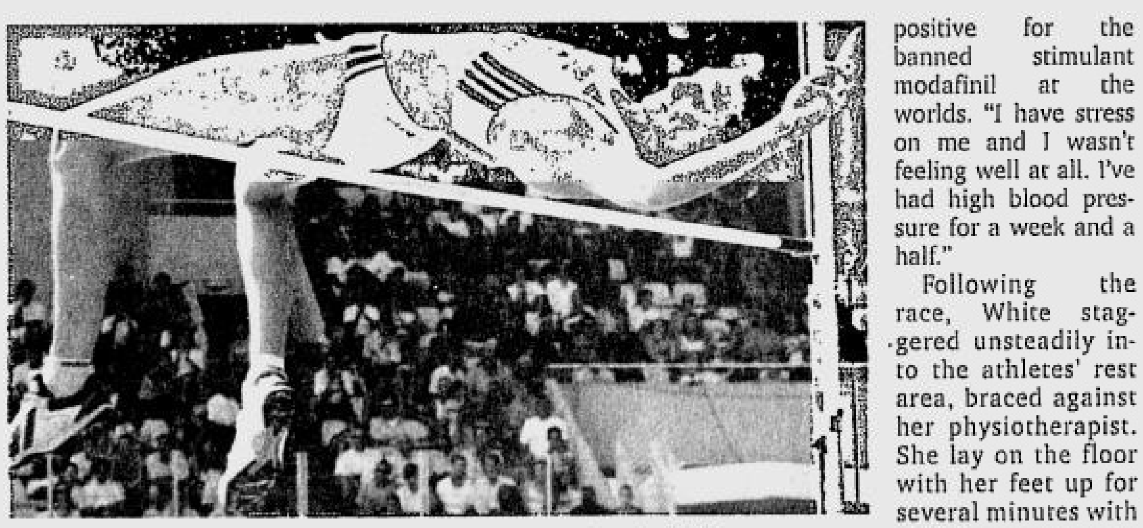
Second-seeded Kelly Morgan of Wales took the women's singles final with a 13-10 (3-0), 7-11, 11-5 win over South Korea's Lee Eun Woo. Morgan is ranked 20th internationally. *AP*

ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

African jumper leads White

MONTE CARLO, Monaco—World high jump champion Hestrie Cloete of South Africa added a World Athletics Final win on Saturday and led the running for the World Athlete of the Year award.

Cloete, who successfully defended her world championship title in Paris last month, cleared 2.01 meters on her second attempt to win track and field's season finale from Ukraine's Vita Palamar, who needed three tries. Kajsa Bergqvist of Sweden was third with 1.99.


HESTRIE Cloete of South Arfica clears the bar as she wins the high jump event. AP

Cloete has 1,441 points for the award worth US$100,000. Only American sprinter Kelli White, with 1,429 points, can surpass her, and White will have to win the 100 meters on Sunday in 10.77 seconds, a whopping .08 faster than her best time.

World heptathlon champion Carolina Kluft of Sweden was leading the rankings with 1,434 points, but opted to skip Monaco, and forfeit the award and prizemoney.

"My final ranking is like the cherry on the cake because this competition was not my main focus," Cloete said. "For me today it was a matter of if I could clear 2 meters or not."

White, running under a cloud of doping charges, kept alive a slim hope of winning the award by winning Saturday's 200 meters in 22.31 seconds, well ahead of France's Muriel Hurtis, who was .10 back. Russia's Anastasia Kapachinskaya was third in 22.57.

"It was hard. I ran a good time but it wasn't as fast as I needed," said White, who tested positive for the banned stimulant modafinil at the worlds. "I have stress on me and I wasn't feeling well at all. I've had high blood pressure for a week and a half."

Following the race, White staggered unsteadily into the athletes' rest area, braced against her physiotherapist. She lay on the floor with her feet up for several minutes with an arm draped across her forehead, and her physiotherapist holding her hand.

After White's positive test, modafinil was classified by the IAAF as a light stimulant which does not warrant suspension.

White said she took the drug to treat the sleep-related disorder narcolepsy, but her doctor's explanation as to why she used it was rejected Monday by the IAAF. It asked US track officials to begin disciplinary measures against her. *AP*

Gonzalez hat trick lifts Madrid to top

GONZALEZ (right) celebrates with teammate David Beckham. AP

MADRID, Spain—Star striker Raul Gonzalez netted a hat trick as champion Real Madrid romped to a 7-2 victory over Valladolid and moved into first place in the Spanish league Saturday.

Raul, who netted twice last Wednesday in Spain's 2-1 win over Ukraine in a Euro 2004 qualifier, took his tally to five goals in three days with strikes in the 32nd, 34th and 75th minutes.

The other goals in Madrid's overwhelming victory came from Zinedine Zidane, Luis Figo, Ronaldo and an own goal by Brazilian defender Julio Cesar.

Madrid has seven points from three games, one more than second-place Deportivo de La Coruna. Deportivo, which has six points from two matches, will overtake Madrid if it wins at Sevilla later Saturday.

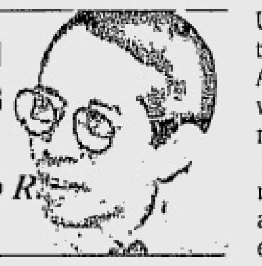
In other late games Saturday, Racing de Santander was hosting Real Sociedad, while Celta de Vigo was entertaining Real Betis.

Raul stole the limelight as Madrid warmed up in spectacular fashion for its Champions League match against Olympique Marseille on Tuesday.

The Spanish striker's successful evening began just before kickoff when he received the league trophy Madrid won last season from Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar. *AP*

The Philracom on trial in Po-Camañero case

CLEAN LIVING



Manolo R. Iñigo

WITH high expectations of a fair and judicious decision from the Philippine Racing Commission, the hearing on the Alfredo Po-Dennis Camañero case ends today at the Philracom office in Makati City. Will justice be served?

The Philracom is on trial here. And now is the best time for Philracom chair Jaime Dilag to use his power and send the message that misdeeds like horse owner Po's alleged threat to shoot jockey Camañero will not be tolerated because it is a conduct not worth emulating by decent and respectable horse owners. If found guilty, Po should be perpetually banned from owning horses and barred from entering the racing club premises.

According to William Collins, my Australian horse racing connection, he was appalled to hear on television that Po (if found guilty) would be suspended only either for three months or one year. "That is indeed a tragedy," he said.

Dilag should dispel the notion that his office will treat erring people lightly by merely putting on kid gloves and slapping their wrists. He must not also be coerced by a powerful and influential person in government who, I gathered, is now coming to the rescue of the beleaguered Po and putting the blame on Camañero? Where is justice and fairness here?

Poor Camañero had come forward to file a complaint against well-connected horse owner Po, only to be told straight to his face that his complaint is not true despite the fact that several eyewitnesses (who have no interest whatsoever in the case) have attested to the veracity of his complaint.

For example, Rudy Dancel, a groom of the De Ubago Stable, had executed a sworn affidavit stating that on Saturday, Aug. 9, 2003, between 7 and 7:30 a.m. he saw "Mr. Alfredo Po hurriedly walking with a silver-colored gun in his right hand. Later on, he heard Mr. Po threaten jockey Dennis Camañero by saying, "*Huwag kang tatakbo, kaya kong bayaran ang buhay mo! Papatayin kita!* (Don't run, I can buy your life! I will kill you)!"

Other witnesses had corroborated Dancel's statement, among them Rey Yambao, another De Ubago groom; veteran horse trainer Juan Sordan, Alejandro Adriano and Josefina Tanagon, wife of horse trainer and stable manager Elito Tanagon.

If they want to save the horse racing industry from falling apart, Dilag and his commissioners should render a fair, honest and impartial decision by punishing those people who are giving the sport a big blackeye.

***

'MUST-SEE' TRACKFEST. One sporting event worth seeing is the 44-nation 15th Asian Athletics Association track and field championship on Sept. 20-23 at the historic Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has been invited to grace the colorful opening ceremony, said Patafa chief Go Teng Kok, adding that several world-class athletes are also coming here to show their stuff. They are hammer thrower Gu Yuan of China and women super athlete Susanthika Jayasinghe of Sri Lanka and Indian middle distance runner Rani Sunita. Jayasinghe won the gold medal in the 100 meters in last year's 3As and the Busan Asian Games while Sunita topped the 1500m event in the Busan Asiad.

The Philippines, honing for this year's SEA Games in Vietnam, will be led by long jump sensation Lerma Bulaitan-Gabito and Marestella Torres and multititled long-distance runner Eduardo Buenavista.

OLYMPIC TRIVIA. Did you know that when a city seeking the Games puts in its bid, it also selects dates that are negotiable. The dates of both the 1988 Seoul and 1996 Atlanta Games were selected with TV scheduling in mind... Do Olympic athletes have diplomatic immunity during the Games in case they get into trouble? Answer: There is no international law that grants Olympic athletes any sort of immunity, diplomatic or otherwise. When a couple of visiting athletes were caught shoplifting in Atlanta, Olympic officials created a controversy when they intervened in the legal process. Since then, Billy Payne, chief of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic games, clarified Acog's role if visiting athletes tangle with the law. Payne said visiting organizations should educate their athletes about American laws and help them overcome language barriers if they are caught in the criminal justice system. But that's as far as Olympic officials will go.

Yankees roar to 8th victory

NEW YORK—Bernie Williams homered twice in a game for the first time in more than a year and Ruben Sierra added a go-ahead homer in the eighth inning as the Yankees beat the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, 6-5, in the opener of a day-night doubleheader. Sierra then drove in three runs as New York won, 6-3, to complete the sweep.

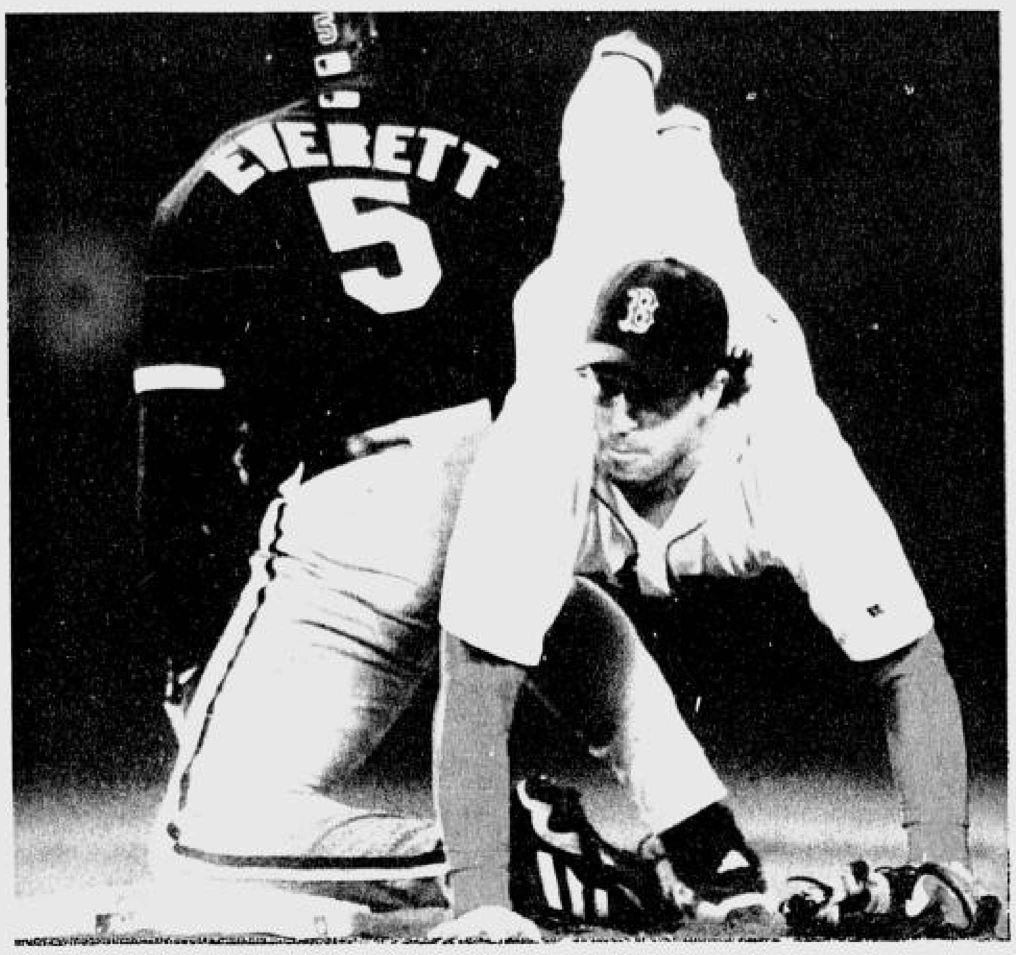
New York (92-56) matched its longest winning streak of the year at eight games, passed Atlanta for the best record in the major leagues and opened a 5 1/2-game lead over second-place Boston in the AL East. Just a week earlier, the Red Sox routed the Yankees for the second straight day to close within 1 1/2 games.

"Maybe getting pounded by them two nights in a row got our attention and got us going," said Mike Mussina (17-7), who got his 199th win in the nightcap—matching teammate David Wells.

Yankees captain Derek Jeter caused teammates to gasp in the fifth inning of the second game when he tried to go from first to third on Jason Giambi's walk. While third was uncovered, he overslid the base and was tagged out by third baseman Jared Sandberg, who rushed to get back.

"The guy didn't have catcher's gear on," joked Jeter, who dislocated his shoulder during a similar play on opening day when he collided at third with Toronto catcher Ken Huckaby.

Mariano Rivera saved both games, needing just 14 pitches to get six outs and raise his season saves total to 37. *AP*



CHICAGO White Sox' Carl Everett upends Boston Red Sox second baseman Todd Walker while attempting to break up a double play during the sixth inning at Fenway Park in Boston, Saturday. Walker completed the double play. AP

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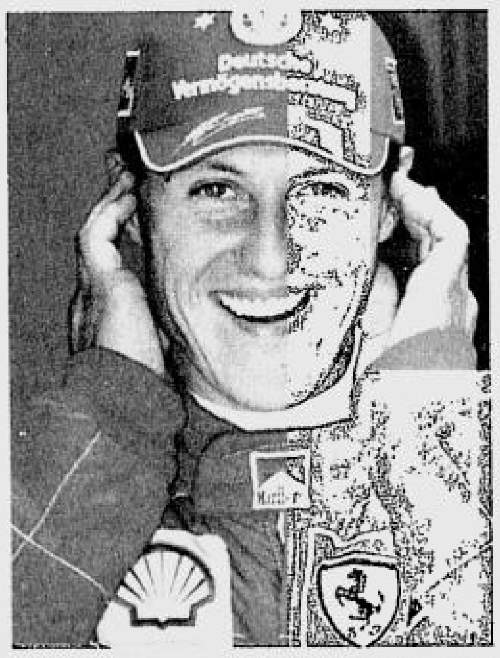
'Schumi' triumphs, pads lead



A VICTORIOUS Schumacher plugs his ears in the pits of the Monza racetrack after parking his Ferrari. The Italian Grand Prix winner increased his lead over Juan Pablo Montoya. AFP

MONZA, Italy—Five-time world champion Michael Schumacher regained the initiative in the Formula One title race when he fought off rival Juan Pablo Montoya to win the Italian Grand Prix here on Sunday.

It was the Ferrari star's first win in six races and it extended his lead in the championship to three points over the Williams driver with just two rounds left.

Schumacher's fifth win of the season was achieved with a 5.294-second edge over the Colombian.

Rubens Barrichello was third in the second Ferrari, ahead of McLaren's Kimi Raikkonen, Marc Gene in a Williams, deputizing for the injured Ralf Schumacher, Jacques Villeneuve in the BAR-Honda, Mark Webber in a Jaguar and Fernando Alonso in a Renault.

After resisting a fierce, wheel-to-wheel first lap challenge from Montoya, Schumacher stamped his authority on the early part of the race as he headed for his first win since the Canadian Grand Prix in June.

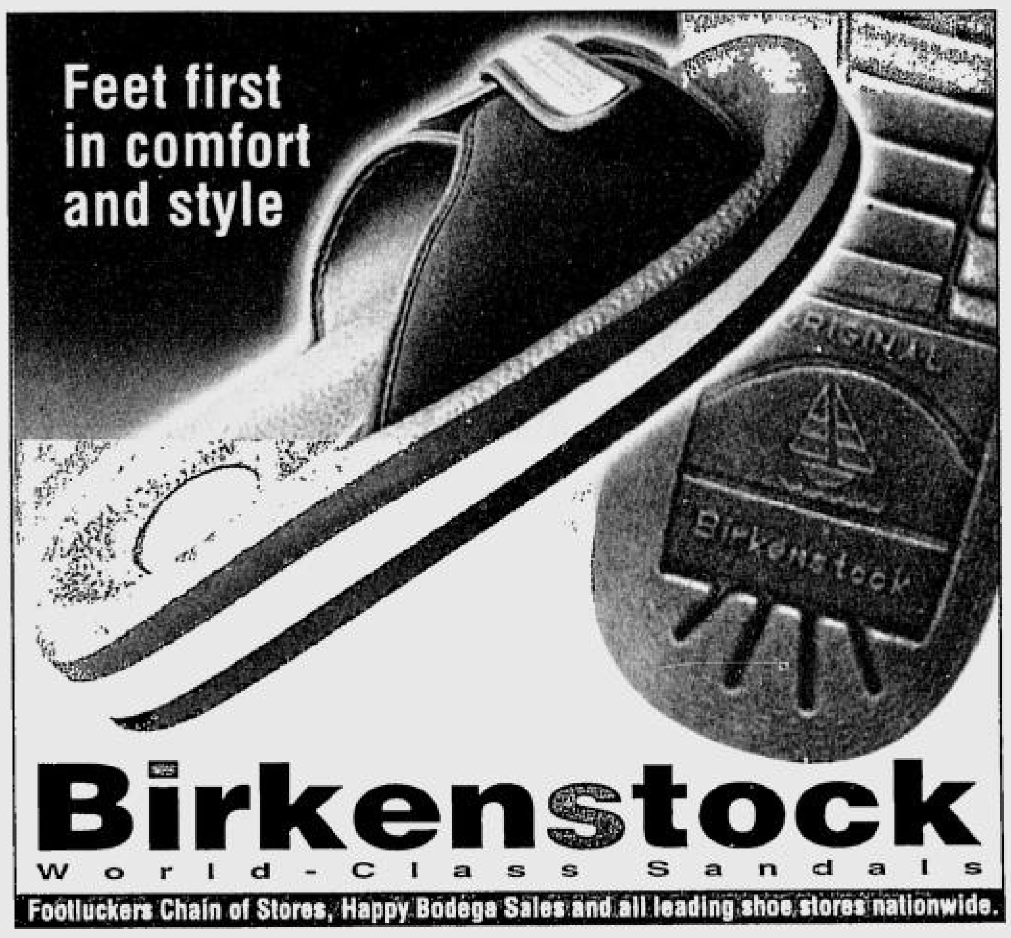
Schumacher, protecting a one-point lead in the championship over the Colombian at the start of the race, started from pole and held his lead into the testing first chicane and then kept out Montoya who mounted another first-lap challenge.

Renault's Jarno Trulli, who started from sixth place, was a first-lap casualty when his car lost power while Justin Wilson in a Jaguar was forced to pit early after a start line collision with Fernando Alonso in the other Renault.

Schumacher reeled off a series of fastest laps before making his first pit stop after the 15th lap while Montoya followed him on the 16th.

Jenson Button was the next driver forced out when his BAR-Honda lost transmission on the 25th lap.

McLaren's David Coulthard, who was running fifth, pulled out on lap 46 as his car's engine lost power in the finishing straight. *AFP*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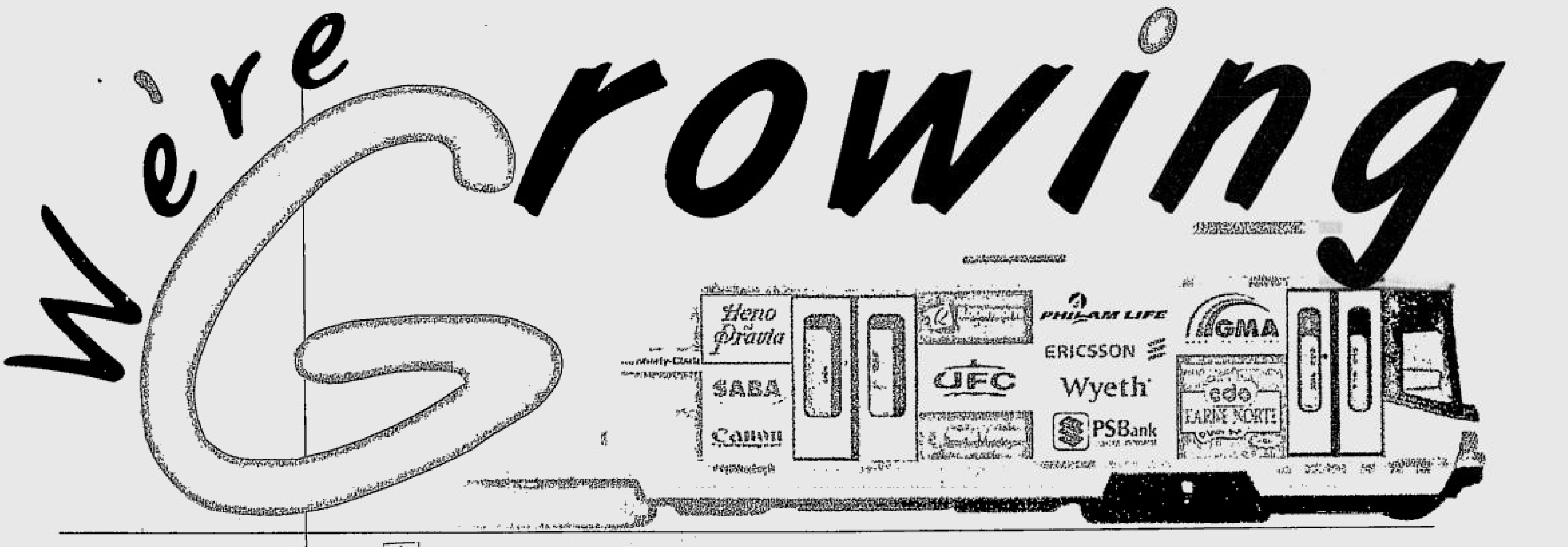

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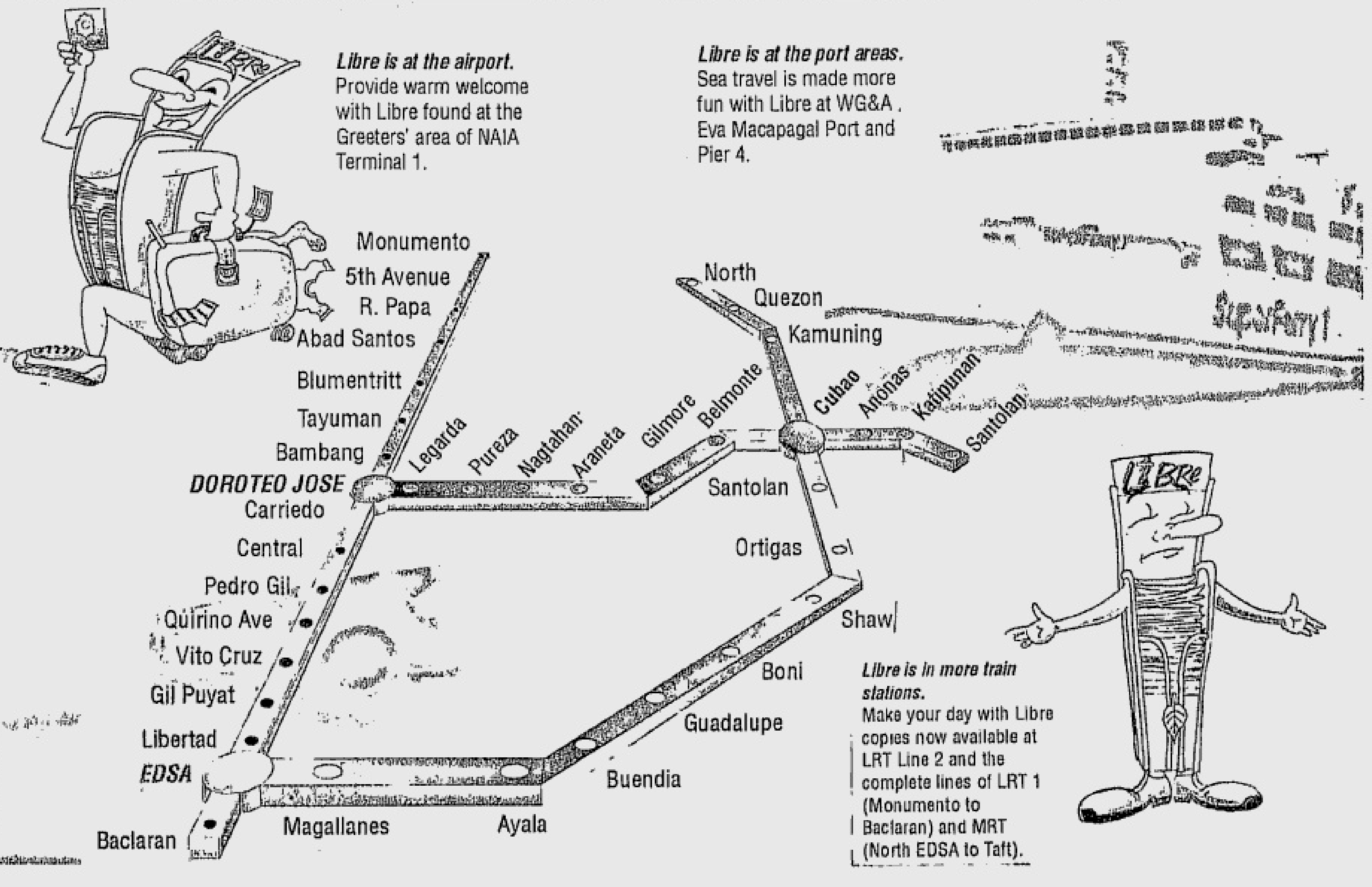

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SPORTS

IMPORTED STAKES

Longshot steals show

COSANNE (right), handled by Jonathan Hernandez, crosses the wire ahead of the Jeffrey Ladiana-ridden Neat Laurel to win the 5th leg of the Imported Stakes Championship. JESS YUSON

By Edwin Villanueva

UNHERALDED Cosanne came up with a daunting run entering the homestretch to upset top pick Neat Laurel in the fifth leg of the 2003 Imported Stakes Championship yesterday at the Santa Ana Park.

Cosanne got a strong ride from star jockey Jonathan Hernandez in pulling off the shocker against Hermie Esguerra's touted galloper.

Hernandez drove Cosanne from seventh place in the early going to third nearing the home turn where the five-year-old mare passed Of Note and Footwear.

Neat Laurel, handled by Jeffrey Ladiana, appeared into the picture at the top of the stretch and made a bid along the rail but came in short, arriving a length behind Cosanne.

Of Note, a stablemate of Neat Laurel, wound up third, with Jade Louise checking in fourth and You Know That charging from dead last to finish fifth.

Cosanne, a dark bay galloper sired by Grand Lodge out of Cuddled, negotiated the 1,500-meter race ran under driving rain in 1:41.6 (13.5-25.5-25-27).

"Sinuwerte lang. Nagulat ako ang ganda ng itinakbo nya ngayon (We just got lucky. I was surprised she ran a good race today)," said Hernandez, whose mount attracted only P25,700 in sales out of the total P1,059,104.

Cosanne bagged the P270,000 first prize put up by the Philippine Racing Commission, while Neat Laurel, sent away as the favorite after ruling an imports race as a longshot and then landing a strong second to Lyonnais recently, settled for P101,250.

Of Note, steered by Jeffril Zarate, got P56,250, while Jade Louise, skippered by Jesse Guce, received P22,500

In the day's other featured event, Jeffrey Bacaycay shone the brightest as he guided Dandansoy to victory in the invitational race for Class A jockeys.

Dandansoy finished the one-mile contest just a neck in front of the Hermie Dilema-ridden Material Maker, who was another length in front of the Yeeson Bautista-handled Serena.

Stayer makes race history

DUBLIN—Gutsy stayer Vinnie Roe won the Irish St. Leger for an historic third time in succession on Saturday, taking up the running 200 meteres from home to beat front-running Gamut by a length in the six-runner field.

The Irish St. Leger is open to horses of all ages, unlike the vast majority of classics which are confined to three-year-olds.

The five-year-old, trained by Dermot Weld and ridden by Pat Smullen, started 2-1 second favourite. Smullen told Channel 4 Racing: "He deserves to be in the history books. He is an absolute monster."

Vinnie Roe is 16-1 for next month's Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in Paris but may be aimed at the Melbourne Cup where last year he finished fourth under top weight to stable mate Media Puzzle.

Meanwhile, Brian Boru won the Seabiscuit St. Leger Stakes at Doncaster Saturday as the 5-4 favorite.

Brian Boru, ridden by Jamie Spencer and trained in Ireland by Aidan O'Brien, fought off the competition from High Accolade to win by a length-and-a-quarter.

Phoenix Reach was a further length-and-a-half back in third, with Maharib fourth.

"Brian Boru is a lovely horse and has plenty of pace, even though this race is a mile and six," O'Brien said. "He travels well through a race and was a seven-furlong winner at two."

The St. Leger is the world's oldest Classic horse race, run Saturday for the 227th time. This year, the race was sponsored by U.S film company Buena Vista International to promote the film "Seabiscuit," about the racehorse that became an unlikely symbol of hope in America during the Depression. *Reuters, AP*

Juveniles take spotlight Sunday

RACING will be back at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite tomorrow as Manila Jockey Club Inc. presents another six-day racing festival.

The schedule includes four days of night racing from Tuesday up to Friday and two weekend afternoon programs of 13 races each on Saturday and Sunday.

Main attractions are the second leg of the 2003 Philracom Juvenile Colts and Juvenile Fillies Stakes Series, slated for Sunday (Sept. 21), involving some of the most promising two-year-old gallopers in local racing.

Set over identical distances of 1,500 meters, the back-to-back juvenile classics has lured the participation of seven two-year-old colts and nine two-year-old fillies competing for the top purse of P600,000 in their respective divisions.

Heading the field in the Juvenile Colts are inaugural leg winner Last Hazm and chief rival Don Paolo. Also entered are Air Force One, Batangas Force, Bunker Buster, Sir Brendan Jean and Speed O'War.

First leg Juvenile Fillies winner Gorgeous Sand will try to defend her crown against the likes of Cat's Eye, Cat's Jewel, Concorde, Cool Runnings, I Love This Game, Magical Charm, Sweet Talk and Tini Bambini.

Top seed blanks foe, gains 16-under semis

TOP seed Jessica Agra deblanked Isobelle Culaba, 6-0, 6-0, yesterday to reach the girls' 16-under semifinals in the Futures Foundation Age-Group Tennis Cup at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Agra battles third seed Julie Em Botor, who won by default over Ivy Pringle, when the two-weekend netfest resumes on Sept. 19.

In the girls' 12-under class, No. 1 Sarah Jane Lim zapped JV Custodio, 6-0, 6-1, No. 2 Jia Elesis whipped Kariz de Dios, 6-2, 6-2, No. 3 Zhane Quitara trimmed Judy Em Botor, 6-0, 6-1, and No. 4 Joan Opulencia trounced Irina Quinatadcan, 6-4, 6-0, to complete the semis cast.

In the boys' 16-under division, unranked Ogie Reynoso stunned No. 6 Johnwill Baldonado, 6-3, 6-3, to advance in the quarterfinals against No. 3 Daniel Luis Macalino, a 6-3, 6-4 winner over Mark Balce. Other winners were No. 2 Ralph Barte over Alvin Manalastas, 6-2, 6-2, No. 4. Pablo Olivarez II over Gerard Michael Ngo, 6-3, 6-2, No. 5 Russell Arcilla Jr. over Shiv Hirinand, 6-1, 6-1, and Homer Perez over Carlo Pantino, 6-4, 7-5.

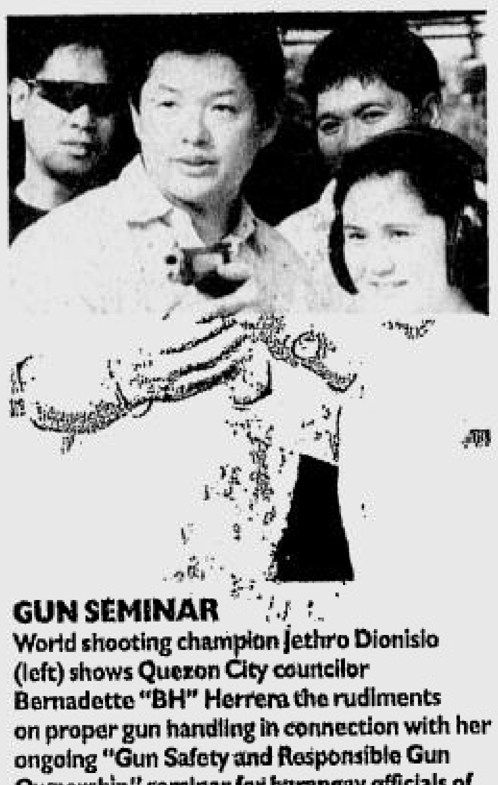
In the boys' 14-under category, No. Pablo Olivarez II outclassed Gian Carlo Pantino, 6-1, 6-1, to forge a quarterfinal showdown with No. 5 Joshua Tan Ho, a 6-1, 6-4 winner over Homer Paolo Perez while No. 3 Gerard Michael Ngo outplayed Jose Lorenzo Opulencia, 6-4, 6-3, to advance against No. 8 Johnwill Baldonado, who beat Kim Ivor Saraza, 6-0, 6-4.

SPORTS noodle

From page A27

ANSWERS

1. False (The NBA-powered US team won, 106-73)
2. Badminton
3. Five
4. Bacolod City
5. Ruslan Ponomariov (Ukraine)
6. Kelli White
7. Bob Sapp


GUN SEMINAR
World shooting champion Jethro Dionisio (left) shows Quezon City councilor Bernadette "BH" Herrera the rudiments on proper gun handling in connection with her ongoing "Gun Safety and Responsible Gun Ownership" seminar for barangay officials of District I who have recently organized the Pistoleros ng District Uno Gun Club.

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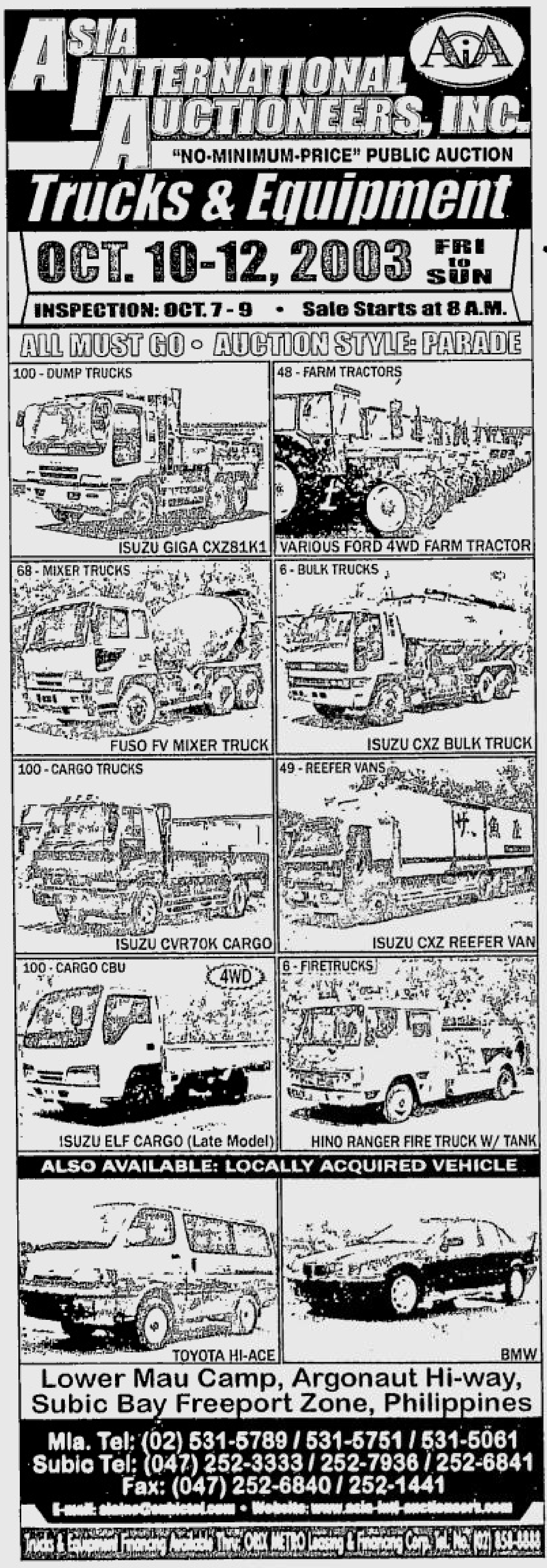
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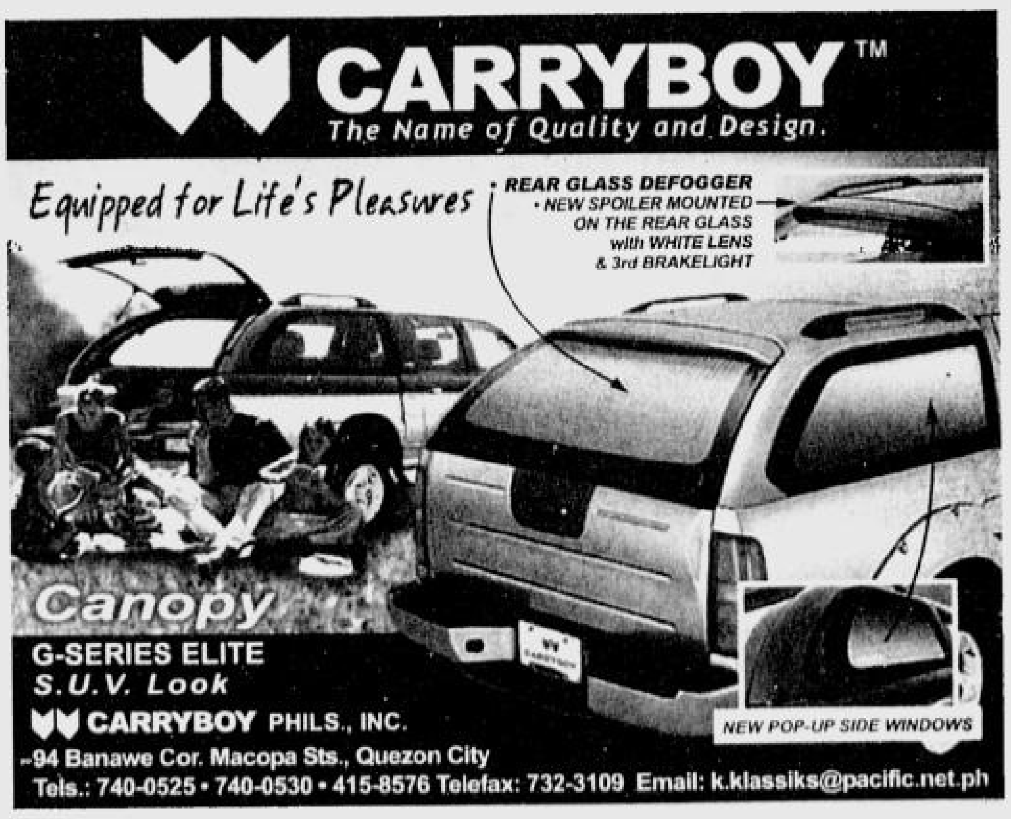
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Napocor loses ₱34B in 1st 6 months

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE CASH-STRAPPED National Power Corp. posted a net loss of P34 billion for the first half of 2003.

Although this was 10.5 percent better than the P38-billion target for the period, Napocor documents showed that the state firm's losses for the first six months shot up by 359 percent from P7.4 billion in the same period of 2002.

The power firm said the better-than-expected performance from January to June was due to improved sales and lower expenses.

Napocor sold 16.2 million megawatt-hours (mWh) in the first half of this year, up by 6 percent from 15.3 million mWh a year ago.

Meantime, the company was able to trim down expenses due to cost-cutting measures it was implementing.

However, company officials said the first-half performance was dampened by the significant deterioration of the peso.

"Our financial projections for 2003 are based on a P53-$1 exchange rate. But the peso weakened beyond the P55-to-the-dollar level," an official said.

Napocor was also smarting from the cap imposed on the recovery of costs of electricity bought from independent power producers.

President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered in May 2002 that Napocor's purchased power cost adjustment (PPCA) mechanism be pegged to 40 centavos per kilowatt-hour.

Critics have said that this provided a superficial solution to the high power rates as it made the rates artificial.

On Friday, Napocor filed before the Energy Regulatory Commission a petition asking for rate increases

Napocor documents showed that the power firm wanted to increase its rates by 50 centavos per kWh in Luzon, 40 centavos in the Visayas and P1.77 in Mindanao.

The filing was made under the generation rate adjustment mechanism (Gram), which is meant to recover cost that Napocor incurred in producing electricity between February and May.

The Gram replaced Napocor's PPCA, which distribution utilities pass on to end-consumers as the controversial PPA (purchased power adjustment).

Under the guidelines for Gram, power companies can ask the ERC's go-ahead to adjust their selling rates according to fluctuations in generation costs for a period of three months.

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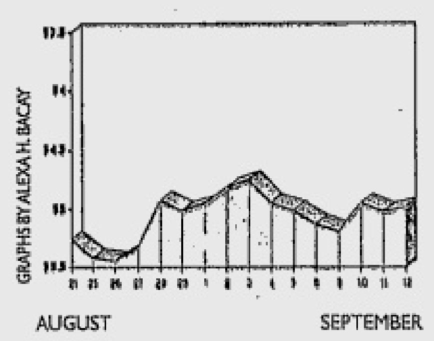

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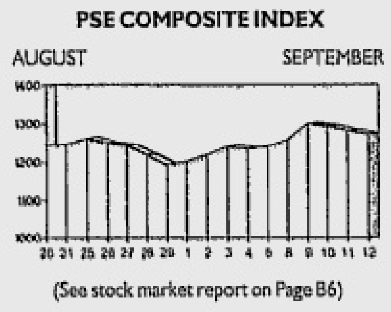
STOCK MARKET

Buying momentum seen to continue



(See stock market report on Page B6)

THE LOCAL stock market is seen attempting to break out of the 1,300 level this week on sustained buying momentum inspired by the rebounding US and regional markets.

Last week, the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose by 2.61 percent to close at 1,272.99 from a week ago, taking its cue from Wall Street's gains.

"Chartwise, Friday's close at 1272.99, has shifted the near-term view to a more bullish one, at least for the near-term," said Banco de Oro Universal Bank chief strategist Jonathan Ravelas.

"This now puts a big weight to the 1,300.00 level. A break above this would give way to a test of the 1,400 to 1,450," Ravelas said.

He said an important support level stood at 1,230.

BUYING/ B2

Volatile election period seen raising cost of RP loans

By Clarissa S. Batino

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho has expressed concern that the presidential election in May 2004 would foment volatile economic conditions and make foreign borrowings more difficult and expensive for most of the first semester.

Foreign rating firms and investment banks have also been pointing to the May elections as a period of general uncertainty for the Philippines.

They suspected Sen. Panfilo Lacson's accusation that First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo hid campaign contributions in secret accounts was part of the usual mudslinging in the runup to the election. Lacson, a presidential candidate, is linking Mrs. Arroyo to the irregularities.

This is the reason why the government, given the opportunity and favorable economic conditions, will go back to the foreign bond market to complete its $225-million requirement this year and pre-fund about $500 million of its maturing foreign debt in 2004.

"There is a consensus that rates would be stable between now and the end of the year. But for the first quarter and most of the first half of 2004, we would see some volatility because of the May elections. With the right opportunity, pre-funding is something that we are seriously considering," the finance secretary said.

Camacho denied, however, that the government had already mandated Deutsche Bank to underwrite a $300-million, five-year bond issue even as he noted that the residual requirements of the government could be completed between now and October.

Between November and December, the government would likely borrow some of its requirements for the coming year, he added. The size would depend on the market to be tapped although in the last two years, the government had been pre-funding $500 million annually.

"A transaction in the market at this time is not true," Camacho said, denying market talk about the Deutsche deal.

The finance chief said the government was seriously considering the Islamic market for a bond issue as it would demonstrate a strengthening relationship between the Philippines and the Islamic world.

Camacho said the $2-billion foreign requirement for next year would be used to settle maturing loans of about P100 billion. The

VOLATILE/ B2

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Volatile election period . . .

From page B1

foreign borrowing would represent 30 percent of the government's financing program in 2004, leaving 70 percent to be raised from the local market.

This year, the government had programmed an external financing requirement of $2.4 billion aside from $1.5 billion in multilateral loans. The latter hardly materialized.

After raising P74.3 billion from the sale of retail treasury bonds in July, the government reduced the foreign borrowing program to $1.9 billion. In the first half, the government already completed $1.5 billion from the sale of global and euro bonds.

Early this month, the state sold $175 million worth of 18-month zero coupon bonds. The proceeds of the $750-million global bonds sold by the government in July were all relent to the cash-strapped National Power Corp.

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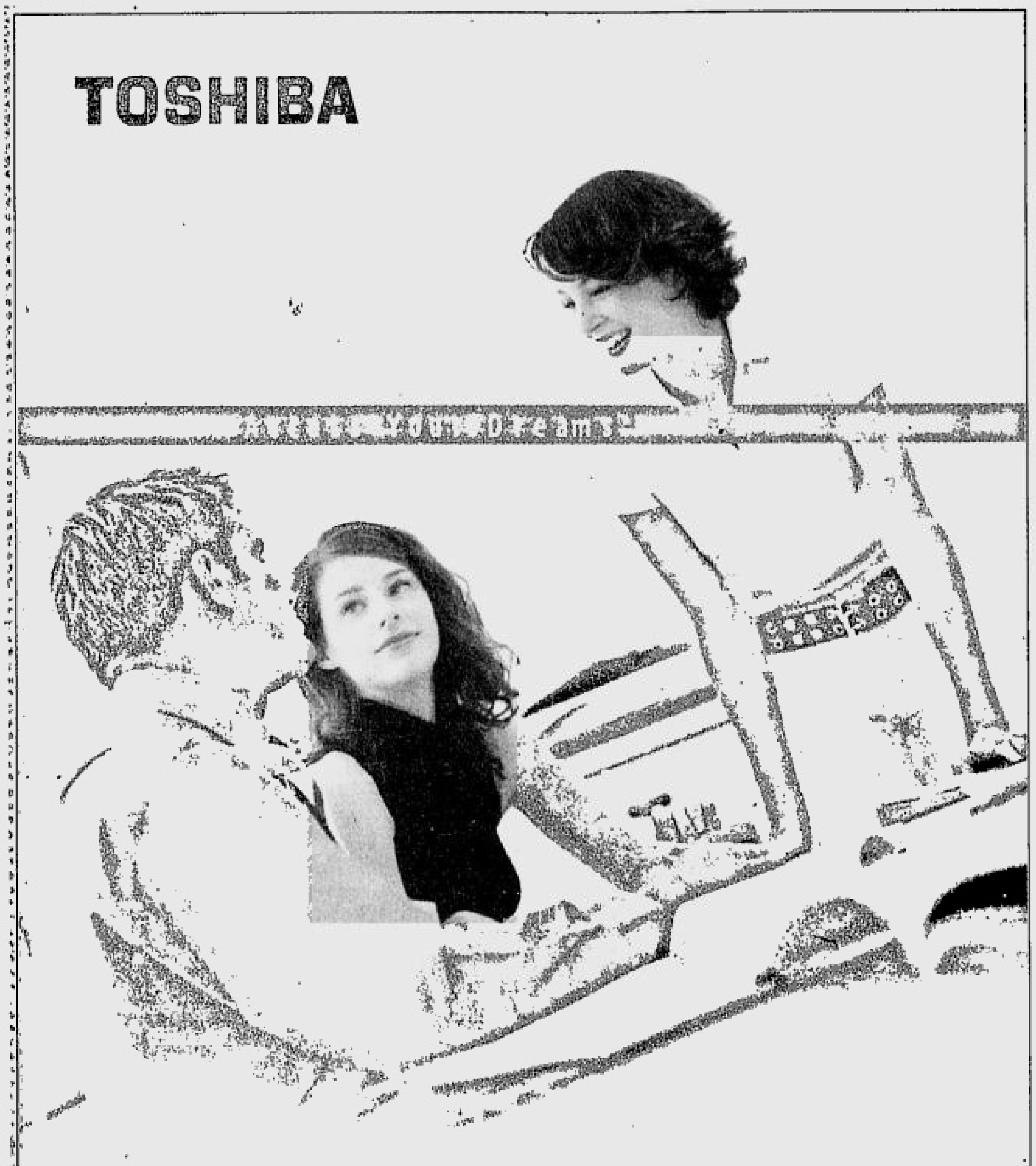

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Friends, countrymen, romance

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IN THE fiery issue involving Jose Pidal (not his, her, or their real name), in case you didn't notice, the two chambers of Congress are going their own separate ways.

The Senate blue ribbon committee of Sen. Joker Arroyo (no relation to Jose Pidal, or at least to the guy who claims to be Jose Pidal) tries to get to the meat of the matter.

And that is, does Jose Pidal indeed keep those supposedly hefty bank accounts, and if so, who is Jose Pidal, and how come he has so much CASH?

In the House of Representatives, at the same time, our deep-thinking congressmen are talking endlessly about an apparent...well, "L-Q."

* * *

I DON'T know if, by dwelling deeply into the supposed "L-Q" in Malacañang, the congressmen are telling us something about a certain limit to their mental capacity.

Everyday they manage to talk about the First Couple's marriage, which is said to be on the rocks one day, or to be on the mend the next day, or somewhere in-between.

Given the split personality of Congress, I also cannot say if, by focusing on the bank accounts, you can say the Senate is what we know down here as "mukhang pera."

But the thing is, it also does not tell us anything about the members of the House, whether or not, with all the talk on somebody else's love life, they are sex maniacs.

* * *

THEY just succeeded in downgrading a national issue, which can make or break this cute administration of Gloriaetta, into what movie writers call romance-drama.

Of course, taking a cue from the congressmen, the First Gentleman, Jose Miguel Arroyo, known in my family as Mike the Knife, hams it up himself.

Mike the Knife, for instance, begs for forgiveness. For what, he does not say. Still he announces to the public that he cannot imagine life without Gloriaetta. Really!

And then, understandably, media laps it all up. Serious television news all of a sudden looks like television soap. Move over, Eula Valdez!

* * *

THUS, Malacañang rides on the sentimentality. Like it's a big deal, Malacañang announces that Mike the Knife will join Gloriaetta in her trips abroad. *Uy, bati na!*

Alright, a little schmaltziness in our hard lives cannot hurt, even with the jobless in our midst still running up to more than 10 million able men and women.

This cute administration's media handlers have been feeding us a fiction about the First Couple's marriage as solid as a rock, their romance as syrupy as cough medicine.

And so friends, Romans, countrymen, as we lend Malacañang our ears on Valentine's Day, or the First Couple's wedding anniversary, or what have you, we get news about what they did to each other, or together, or whatever. *Tamis ng buhay!*

* * *

WITH all that cruel "texting" (yes, it's now a verb) going on, however, the cell-phone crowd could get conflicting info (i.e. rumors) about the First Couple.

Not just a few, and even in polite company, already knew, for instance, who stays in a condo on Katipunan or who lives with whom in a house in Wack Wack Subdivision.

But nobody bothered with the rumors about any of those extra curricula. Their private lives should only be their own private business.

That's why, in the Jose Pidal scandal, anybody's love life is not the main issue. It is still the stash of untold amounts of CASH. The romance is just a subplot. A la soap!

* * *

NOW senators talk about pressure from Malacañang for the blue ribbon committee to stop the investigation on the Jose Pidal bank accounts.

The "pressure" was reported in media. True or not, reports on such a pressure are bad for this cute administration.

Despite the efforts of Malacañang to distance Gloriaetta from the scandal, it is clear that this cute administration is already getting uncomfortable with the issue.

How they wish the issue would go away! But news of pressure from Malacañang, all the more, will fuel the Jose Pidal scandal. It will not just die down.

* * *

MOREOVER, woven into the issue is an intricate story about the guy who has no relations to Joker Arroyo, the self-confessed Jose Pidal, Ignacio Arroyo himself.

You see, he tries to show to the public that he is actually Jose Pidal, by signing his name as Jose Pidal in front of media people.

But how come, on television recently, on the talk show Dong Puno Live, Ignacio Arroyo did not want to give us a sample of his signature as Jose Pidal? Live!

Maybe it's because Sen. Serge Osmeña III, also a guest on the show, brought a sample of the original Jose Pidal signature. Ignacio Arroyo's version was hardly similar.

* * *

THIS same Ignacio Arroyo also defied the Senate blue ribbon investigation, refusing to answer questions from the senators, claiming he has a right to privacy.

Down here in our barangay, the guys think that the right to privacy is a flimsy excuse, particularly for a guy who is out to save the skin of his own brother.

Look, if I am Ignacio Arroyo, and my own brother is getting the heat on my account (pun intended), I will do anything, give up my life even, to protect him.

But Ignacio Arroyo would not answer any question, even if only to clear Mike the Knife. Gosh, he wouldn't even do a sample of a single, simple, freaking signature.]

* * *

SO let me see if I got it right—so here is the real Jose Pidal, who decides to come out, after all, if only to right a wrong done on his own brother, and he does not even bother with a signature sample, is that it?

The underlying issue in the Jose Pidal scandal is a crucial one. Money, as in cash, COLD cash, is involved, supposedly amounting to hundreds of millions of pesos.

Like it or not, at the root of it all, the issue is related to graft and corruption, and we have to get to the bottom of it, because that is our biggest problem.

Who deposited what amount to the Jose Pidal accounts, somehow, bothers us down here. We always ask ourselves this: Deposits in return for what?

Buying momentum seen . . .

From page B1

The market's strong performance last week was also driven by strong gains by the American Depository Receipts in New York of dominant carrier Philippine Long Telephone Co.

"Accumulation spilled over in the broader market with majority of index issues benefiting from this latest bout of bargain hunting. Apparently, investors have discounted all the negatives from the ongoing political controversies," according to BPI Securities.

At the end of the week, however, apprehensions of possible terrorist attacks on the Sept. 11 anniversary date might have contributed to the decision of some investors to lighten up their positions.

"However, buying support has proven to be quite strong. Market losses were limited by positions taken by bargain-hunters. Together with the low volumes accompanying market declines, recent trading activity seems to suggest a continuation of the market's positive momentum," BPI Securities said.

Some local traders were surprised by the strong foreign investor interest in the market last week, given the weakening of the peso against the US dollar and the lack of positive economic data. *Doris C. Dumlao*

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JP Morgan faces ₱1.5-M fine for forex violations

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has slapped foreign bank JP Morgan Chase with a fine of P1.5 million for foreign exchange violations of its defunct money-changing affiliate.

JP MORGAN/B8

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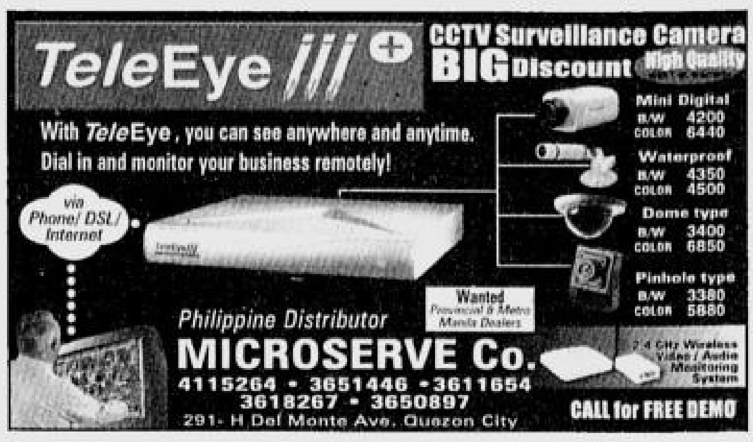
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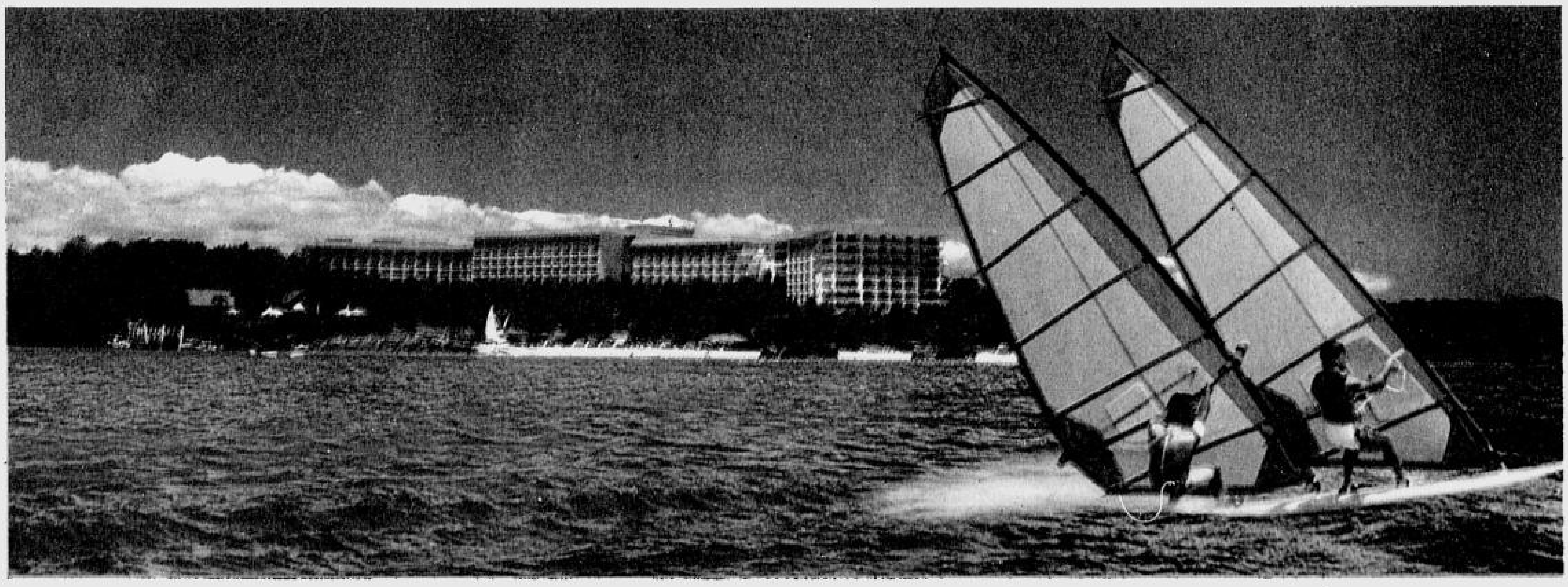
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Court OKs Ramcar rehab plan

By Doris C. Dumlao

DEBT-STRAPPED Ramcar Inc., the country's leading battery manufacturer, has obtained approval from the Quezon City Regional Trial Court to proceed with a new rehabilitation program to address about P8.2 billion in liabilities.

Since the petition for rehabilitation was submitted on Dec. 18, 2001, the rehabilitation plan has undergone several changes that now incorporated the major concerns of its creditor banks and suppliers, the company said in a statement.

In a 75-page ruling issued by RTC Judge Reynaldo Daway last Aug. 20, the court noted that creditor-banks accounting for 88 percent of the total obligation have agreed to a settlement under the terms of the second amended rehabilitation plan. Other banks representing the balance are now in the process of settling also following the terms of the new plan.

The debt settlement plan in the second amended rehabilitation plan calls for the following:

- restructuring of about P1.47 billion in secured debt (including unpaid interest);
- full settlement of about P6.65 billion in unsecured debt, and
- the immediate payment of the balance of the payables to suppliers upon the reinstatement of credit terms to levels not exceeding what were in effect preceding the filing of the petition for rehabilitation in 2001.

Ramcar's shareholders have also committed to infuse P872 million over the next six years to pay debts to the secured creditors.

On the other hand, Ramcar intends to pay its unsecured debt through a *dacion en pago* or payment in kind using assets to be contributed by the shareholders with a total value of P6.43 billion, representing about 96 of total unsecured debt. The remainder shall be settled with non-operating assets worth P262 million.

"The reduction of debt to a manageable level will allow Ramcar to continue its modernization and expansion program. This will put the company back on a solid financial footing which will enable Ramcar to pursue its vision of becoming the most competitive battery manufacturer in Asia," company president Roberto Garcia said.

"Ramcar is now on its way to recovery. The judge has approved the rehab plan. The majority of

COURT/B8

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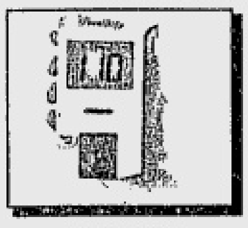

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Cielito F. Habito

THROUGH the 1990s, our import tariffs had been phased down to reach an eventual target uniform 5-percent rate by 2004. In similar fashion, the Asean member-countries had decided that most imports within the Asean Free Trade Area (Afta) would have tariffs within 0 to 5 percent by 2004—and then even speeded this up to 2002. The idea was to achieve a simplified tariff system that would eliminate technical smuggling through misdeclaration of import shipments, lower the costs of customs administration, greatly diminish the incentive for outright smuggling given the minimal tariff rate, and ultimately promote competitiveness of domestic producers in the international markets.

Two years ago, our government decided to freeze the rates at their 2000 levels, on the justification that our producers needed a reprieve due to the global economic slowdown and the lingering effects of the Asian financial crisis. Now, we are told that there is a plan to raise them back to their 1998 levels. Various excuses are now being found to unravel the very reforms toward improved competitiveness that had actually given us the resilience to weather the Asian financial crisis and our own internal politically-induced difficulties of the past years.

Trade protection to protect jobs?

The most appealing excuse has been the lingering unemployment problem, with still more than one out of 10 Filipino workers unable to find a job. The question that requires careful examination is whether our inability to create enough jobs traces primarily to the opening of our markets to more active trade. There is no denying that uncompetitive firms have been driven to losses and even closure by the strong competition both in our domestic and in the export markets from cheaper producers like China and Vietnam, whose labor costs are a small fraction of ours.

To understand the problem more clearly, we need to ascertain where the job losses have been more severe. Is it in firms that have been edged out of the export markets by cheaper competitors abroad? Or is it in firms that have been crowded out of our relatively small domestic market? If it is the first, then closing ourselves up with high tariff protection is not the answer, for that will only move us even farther away from being competitive in the export markets. If it is the latter, then we have to examine more closely why our own producers are being underpriced.

In many cases, our uncompetitiveness is not beyond our control, but is in fact self-inflicted. For example, if we are seeing an influx of manufactured foods, particularly sugar-based ones (candies, cookies and confectioneries) from our neighbors, it is because we have made their primary input much more expensive for our own manufacturers with our policy of protecting sugar with high import tariffs. Candy manufacturer Van Melle decided to stop producing their candies in the Philippines and moved production to Thailand some time ago for this very reason.

Whose jobs?

It is not enough that we appease our food exporters with access to cheaper sugar, as has been the solution offered to them every time they complain of the high cost of sugar. We should not forget that our domestic food processors, especially the small ones based in the countryside, are just as hurt by the fact that we pay for our sugar two times (yes, two times!) what the Thais, Indonesians, Malaysians and even Laotians do. These are the people who are losing the jobs, or cannot create the additional jobs that would have been possible had sugar been as cheap as it is in our neighboring countries. With tariff protection currently at 65 percent, the sugar industry is actually clamoring to further raise this to 80 percent. In the end, the choice is ours to make.

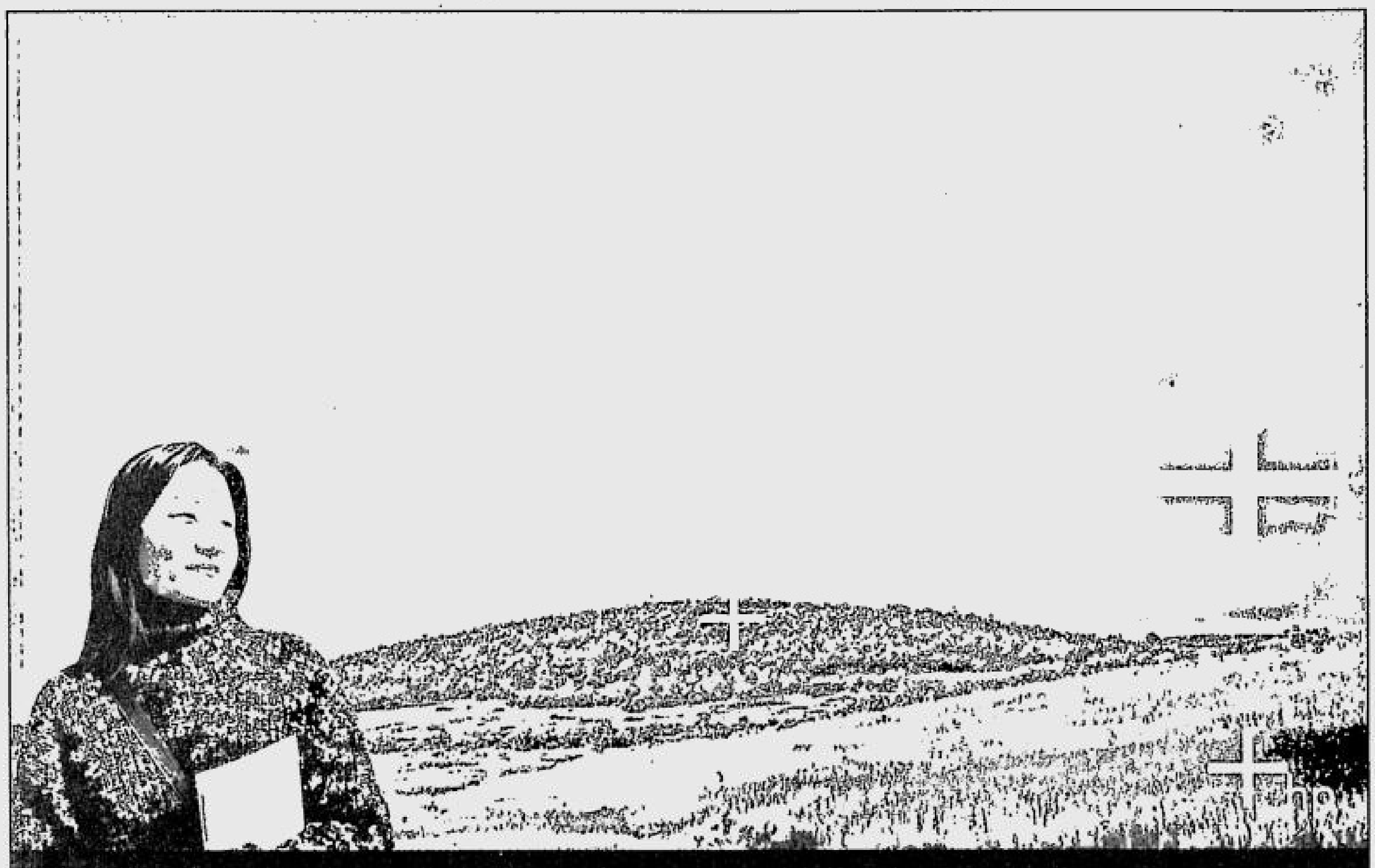
The same argument applies with manufactured products made of plastic and other petrochemical-based materials. If we choose to protect petrochemical products with high tariffs, then we should be prepared to sacrifice or forego jobs in the numerous downstream industries whose products, whether for export or the domestic market, will inevitably be priced out of the market.

Still the same holds for cement. If we choose to make cement more expensive for ourselves through a 20-percent import tariff, in order to protect jobs in the cement industry, then we should be prepared to forego many more jobs in the construction sector that would have been possible had construction costs been lower with cheaper cement.

The greatest good for the loudest number?

In short, if we wish to use renewed trade protectionism to protect jobs, we need to be clear how many and whose jobs we are protecting. Trade protection on some products may indeed protect some employment, but if we are to use this instrument for this objective, we better be sure that the net effect on employment is positive. As we can see from the above examples, trade protection for some industries may protect certain jobs, but they may be killing or precluding many more jobs in the process. I have always believed that the foremost criterion in making policy decisions would have to be to go for the greatest good for the greatest number—and not the greatest good for the loudest number.

(Comments may be sent to chabito@ateneo.edu)



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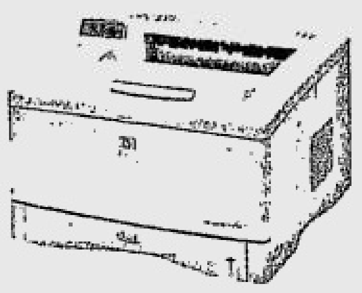

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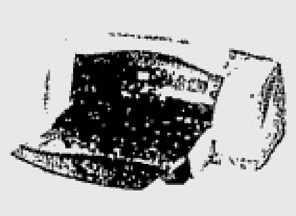

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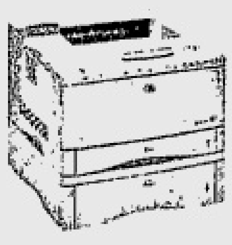

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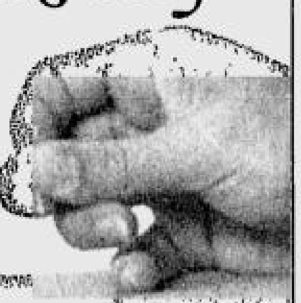

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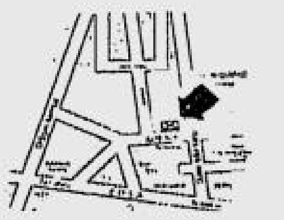

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Manila vs the region

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

AVERAGE Metro Manila workers need to pump in 26 minutes of work in order to buy a kilo of rice, as against 20 minutes for their Jakarta counterparts and 25 minutes for Bangkok laborers.

To buy a Big Mac, typical Manilans need to clock in 62 minutes of labor, while Jakartans would need to sweat it out a little longer at 67 minutes.

Their counterparts in Bangkok, on the other hand, would be wolfing down the hefty burger after only 50 minutes of work.

Not only that, income tax and social security contributions of Bangkok workers account for only 4 percent of their pay envelopes, as against 10 percent for Jakartans, 12 percent for Hong Kong residents, and 16 percent for Metro Manilans.

These and other comparative figures may be gleaned in the global "Price and Earnings" survey released last month by UBS, the Swiss investment bank. Conducted every three years, the landmark study compared the cost of living and wages, in dollar terms, in 70 cities around the world using end-first quarter 2003 data.

Contrary to the Philexport propaganda that Philippine labor, at least on the semi-skilled level, is no longer regionally competitive, the UBS study found that the average gross wage in Metro Manila is \$1.40/hour, as against \$1.70/hr in Jakarta and \$1.80 in Bangkok.

With Zurich as benchmark and an assigned value of 100, UBS noted that gross wage levels ranked 5.4 for

COCKTALES/B8

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Bankard Empowers Credit Cardholders

Credit card industry pioneer Bankard, Inc. has responded to the call for credit card issuers to be more transparent in informing the public about the interest rates they charge their cardholders. For starters, it has launched a no-frills card that quotes only "effective" or "real" interest rates and not the "nominal" or "add-on" interest rates normally used by other credit card companies to lure cardholders.

Armed with the belief that the best way to protect its own cardholders from falling prey to misleading low-interest promotional offers is to empower them with adequate information on the difference between nominal and effective interest rates, Bankard has launched a media campaign precisely for this purpose.

The challenge, according to Bankard president and chief executive officer Joven D. Reyes is for cardholders to be more mindful of the manner by which interest charges are computed on their credit card billings.

"Most of them would be surprised to know that unless effective interest rates are used, they may end up paying more than what they thought they would be charged based on advertised nominal or add-on rates."

He advises cardholders to analyze their monthly statements of account and credit card bills so as not to be inadvertently misled by the "seemingly low add-on rates" offered by credit companies.

"The key to finding out how much your credit card is charging you lies in understanding whether you are being charged nominal or effective interest rates," Reyes explains.

Nominal interest rate, also called the "add-on rate," is the rate applied on the original item price monthly to arrive at the monthly interest amount. The monthly interest amount is then multiplied by the term (i.e., the number of months the item is to be paid on installment to arrive at the total amount of interest for the whole term.) The nominal or add-on rate does not express the real interest rate charged to one's purchases, Reyes notes.

Effective interest rate, on the other hand, computes interest based on the diminishing balance of the item purchased. Thus, the effective interest rate reflects the "true" or "real" value rate charged to one's transaction.

"Knowing these kinds of information empowers credit card holders and allows them to avoid the nightmare of extremely high interest rates. It helps them become more responsible for the purchases they make and their choice of a credit card that is suited to their needs," Reyes pointed out.

Bankard's response to the clamor for a low-interest, easy-to-pay credit card that quotes only effective or real interest rates is the myDream JCB card. A no-frills, straight-talking card, myDream JCB offers the lowest effective revolving interest rate of 2.5% per month as against the 3.25% to 3.5% charged by other leading credit card brands and the lowest annual fee of P800. For installment purchases, myDream JCB's effective interest rates go as low as 1.5% per month for three months, 1.75% per month for six months and 2% per month for 12 months.

Because it is a straight-talking card, myDream JCB has no hidden costs and charges.

Other value-added perks of myDream JCB include a balance transfer facility that allows non-Bankard cardholders to enjoy immediate savings just by transferring the balance of their non-Bankard credit card to their new myDream JCB; a balance conversion feature that lets cardholders convert their retail purchases to installment just by calling the myDream JCB Hotline at 888-1818; the flexible PEP minimum which lets cardholders pay only 5% of their outstanding balance; international and local acceptability among merchant stores; a vast payment network; and easy access to a 24-hour myDream JCB Customer Hotline 7 days a week via telephone number 888-1818.

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Baguio Country Club	680,000	680,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	65,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	45,000	70,000
Camp John Hay	220,000	250,000
Canlubang	450,000	550,000
Canyonwoods	-	150,000
Capitol Hills	160,000	170,000
Cebu Country Club	1,200,000	1,700,000
Celebrity Sports Club	150,000	180,000
Club Filipino	130,000	175,000
Evercrest "A"	50,000	80,000
Forest Hills "A"	180,000	200,000
Forest Hills "B"	180,000	250,000
Forest Hills "C"	200,000	275,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	200,000	240,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	250,000	300,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	11,000,000	12,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,100,000	10,800,000
Manila Polo	2,100,000	2,300,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	350,000	450,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	550,000	650,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	450,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	-	100,000
Mimosa (Individual)	100,000	140,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	230,000	275,000
Montemar (Individual)	35,000	-
Montemar (Corporate)	70,000	-
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	165,000	275,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"		500,000
Puerto Azul		100,000
Quezon City Sports Club		180,000
Rockwell	-	380,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	60,000	80,000
Sherwood Hills "B"	-	180,000
Sherwood Hills "C"	-	180,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,200,000	Please Call
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	220,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	120,000
Tagaytay Country Club	350,000	380,000
Tagaytay Highlands	780,000	850,000
Tagaytay Midlands	600,000	700,000
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IFC to open $300-M facility for RP borrowers

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has approved in principle a proposal of the International Finance Corp. to open an estimated $300-million loan facility that would allow the multilateral agency to lend in pesos to Philippine companies for the first time.

The Asian Development Bank is also exploring a similar plan, according to the central bank.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the IFC wanted to open a peso-denominated lending facility to remove the exchange risks for the borrowers. The term of the loans could range from 5 to 7 years.

"There is no actual deal yet but I think IFC may already be talking with potential borrowers," the BSP official said. IFC is the investment arm of the World Bank.

Tetangco said the plan was for IFC to bring in dollars and change these into pesos. The multilateral agency had started opening similar lending facilities in other countries.

"The dollar inflow would be good for us," the deputy governor said.

The IFC lending scheme would also give Philippine companies access to cheaper financing.

Tetangco said that during the Asian crisis, experts found out that two issues partly triggered the problem. One is a currency mismatch as local companies borrowed heavily in dollars and the other is the maturity profile where many loans were short-term in nature.

"The initial size of the facility could range from $200 million to $300 million. If successful, then I think they can increase it," he said.

Another source said the ADB wanted to offer peso loans using local branches of foreign banks as conduits. The IFC facility, the same source said, might also involve a form of a currency swap arrangement with a foreign bank.

IFC had been investing in the Philippines during the last 40 years. In the last four years, it had committed to finance $552 million worth of projects.

The multilateral lender is also exploring a tie-up with banks or asset managers to help take out banks' bad loans and bridge the pricing gap that had dogged the sale of soured accounts and foreclosed assets.

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CAMP JOHN HAY	220K	
CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	-	450K
CLUB FILIPINO	-	140K
FONTANA "D"	50K	
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	290K	-
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MIMOSA C2	-	230K
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MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB	-	30K
PUNTA FUEGO		
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	200K	400K
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(As of Sept. 12, 2003)

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BANKS					
Banco De Oro Univ. Bank	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	3,300
Bank Of The Phil. Islands	43	43	42	43	874,200
China Banking Corp.	665	665	665	665	5,600
Citystate Savings Bank	15	15	15	15	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	34.5	34.5	33.5	33.5	291,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30	30	29.5	29.5	389,800
Philippine National Bank	25	25	25	25	7,100
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27	27	27	1,700
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.25	13.25	13	13	1,000
Security Bank Corp.	19	19	19	19	10,000
Union Bank Of The Phil.	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	45,900
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	50,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1700	1700	1675	1675	330
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	50,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1205	1210	1205	1205	1,620
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24.75	25	24.75	24.75	42,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.65	0.65	3,600,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	695	695	690	690	59,070
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	3,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.0525	0.049	0.05	8,000,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.6	0.61	0.6	0.6	1,100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	625	630	620	620	124,460
Ivantage Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	840,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.012	17,900,000
Power & Energy					
Manila Electric Co. A	14	14	13.75	13.75	228,800
Manila Electric Co. B	22	22	21.5	21.5	1,088,800
Petron Corp.	2	2	1.92	1.94	3,777,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.94	0.97	0.94	0.97	70,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	5,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	313,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	40,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	40,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	100,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	314,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	32	32	31.5	31.5	79,700
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.75	18	17.5	17.5	250,700
San Miguel Corp. A	53	53	52.5	53	100,500
San Miguel Corp. B	63	63	62.5	63	48,600
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	210,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.35	4.35	4.25	4.3	4,881,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	10,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.8	2.85	2.8	2.85	24,000
Alp.Net Holdings Inc.	0.034	0.034	0.034	0.034	300,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	1,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	30,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.56	0.58	9,050,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	520,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	3,300,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	25,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	18	18.25	17.75	18.25	445,100
Global Business Hldgs Inc.	62	65	62	65	200
Global Equities Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.105	0.105	1,160,000
Ionics Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.34	1.34	126,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	56,000
Keppel Holdings	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	10,000
Keppel Holdings B	1.16	1.2	1.16	1.2	50,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.65	0.69	0.64	0.69	120,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	5,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.89	0.9	0.88	0.89	1,010,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	500,000
Music Corp.	0.38	0.4	0.38	0.39	5,260,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	2,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.02	1.02	1	1	287,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	1,000,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	160,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0825	0.0825	0.0825	0.0825	300,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	200,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.53	0.53	340,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.4	0.42	0.4	0.42	200,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	200,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.34	750,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	25	25	25	25	15,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,100
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	30,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	23,000
Far Eastern University	470	470	470	470	280
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.6	2,513,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.19	1,000,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	2,600,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	890,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.02	1.02	5,650,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	200,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	1	1	1	1	10,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	200,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.185	0.185	250,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94	13,000
SM Development Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	17,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6	6	5.9	6	3,123,000
MINING					
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.2	1.2	1	1	15,000
Omico Corp.	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	8,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	4,200,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	4,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	100,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	20,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	1,733,550	66,811,000.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	107,695,010	215,628,780.00
PRO	16,466,000	42,019,930.00
Mining	12,215,000	117,200.00
OIL	7,120,000	30,000.00
GRAND TOTALS:	145,229,560	324,606,910.00
	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	435.66	DOWN 4.01
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,847.39	DOWN 10.73
PRO	568.78	DOWN 5.06
Mining	1,236.88	UNCH 0.00
OIL	1.40	DOWN 0.05
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	799.06	DOWN 8.37
Composite	1,272.99	DOWN 9.01

NO. OF ADVANCES: 16; NO. OF DECLINES: 44; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 39; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 99; NO. OF TRADES: 1,366

CURRENCIES

September 14, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.892618	1.000000	54.943000
Japan	Yen	0.007629	0.008547	0.469600
United Kingdom	Pound	1.423637	1.594900	87.628600
Hongkong	Dollar	0.114454	0.128223	7.045000
Switzerland	Franc	0.644816	0.722387	39.690100
Canada	Dollar	0.650881	0.729182	40.063400
Singapore	Dollar	0.509776	0.571102	31.378100
Australia	Dollar	0.587597	0.658285	36.168200
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.367813	2.652661	145.745200
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.238026	0.266660	14.651100
Brunei	Dollar	0.508325	0.569476	31.288700
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000105	0.000118	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.021905	0.024540	1.348300
UAE	Dirham	0.243041	0.272279	14.959800
EMU	Euro	1.000000	1.120300	61.552600
Argentina	Peso	0.308331	0.345423	18.978600
Brazil	Real	0.308118	0.345185	18.965500
Denmark	Kroner	0.134656	0.150855	8.288400
India	Rupee	0.019532	0.021882	1.202300
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.234931	0.263193	14.460600
Mexico	New Peso	0.081224	0.090995	4.999500
New Zealand	Dollar	0.519055	0.581497	31.949200
Norway	Kroner	0.120714	0.135236	7.430300
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015524	0.017391	0.955500
South Africa	Rand	0.120828	0.135364	7.437300
Korea	Won	0.000765	0.000857	0.047100
Sweden	Kroner	0.110071	0.123312	6.775100
Syria	Pound	0.021253	0.023810	1.308200
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026246	0.029403	1.615500
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000560	0.000627	0.034400

INTEREST RATES

Sept. 12, 2003-MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 12-Sep-03	MART1 11-Sep-03
1 Month	6.2813	6.3194
3 Months	6.2768	6.2883
6 Months	6.7554	6.7429
1 Year	8.2483	8.24
2 Years	9.5033	9.6283
3 Years	10.0517	10.1433
4 Years	10.3367	10.48
5 Years	10.6617	10.8667
7 Years	11.29	11.4483
10 Years	11.58	11.76
20 Years	12.04	12.175
25 Years	12.3214	12.376

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

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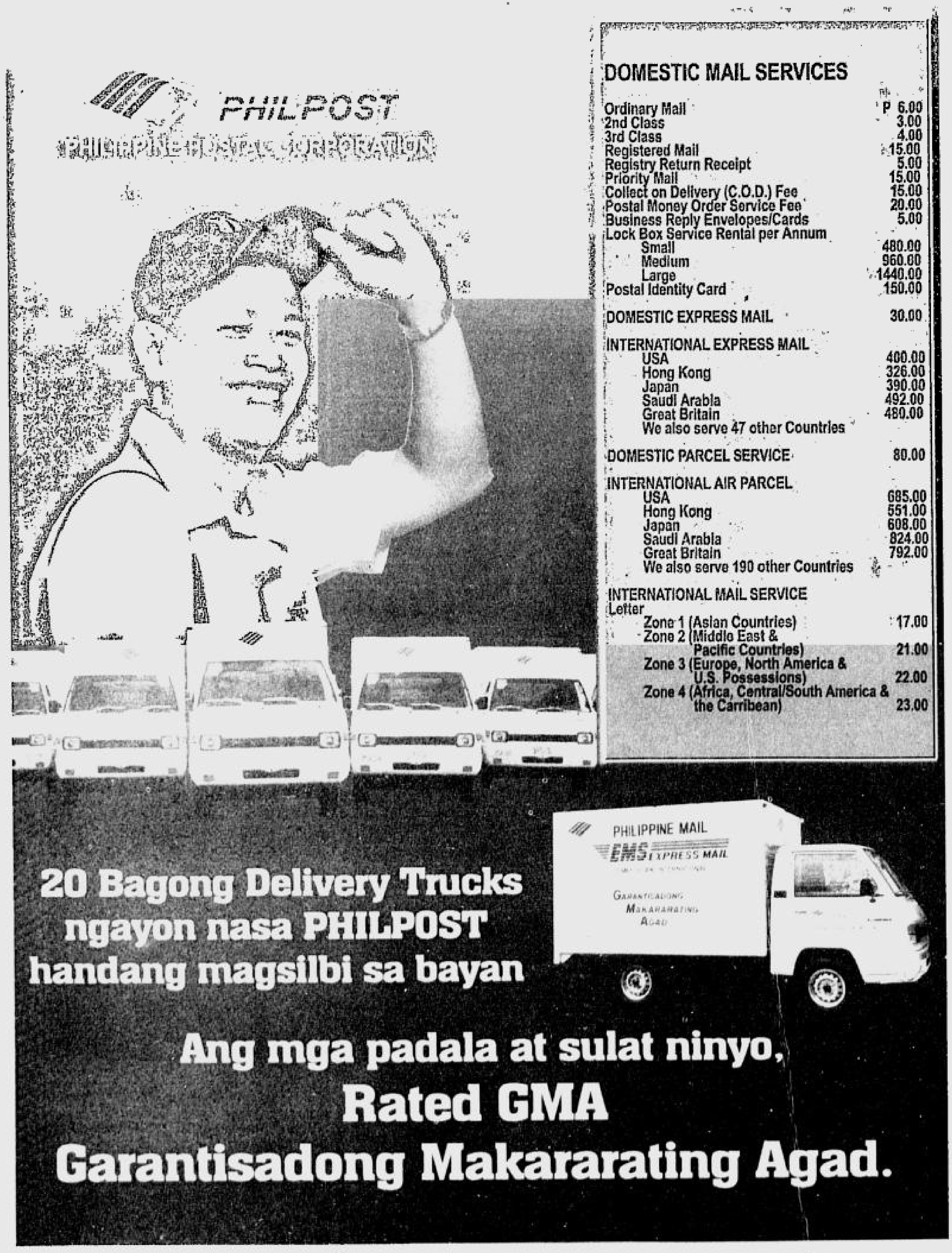
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Moratorium on new banks to stay, says BSP chief

By Clarissa S. Batino

THERE will be no new players in the local banking industry until July 2005 and the only way for an aspiring bank to get in is to buy into an existing lender, said BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

"The moratorium on branching and licensing will stay for the rest of my term. It's up to the next (BSP) governor to change things if he wants to. We may not see major mergers among the big ones in the meantime but we are encouraging rural banks to consolidate," said the BSP chief whose six-year term will end in July 2005.

Buenaventura said many banks were still family owned and this could be an obstruction to potential mergers.

When he assumed the top BSP position in July 1999, Buenaventura envisioned that the banking industry would consolidate and that only five big banks would emerge to aggressively compete with foreign banks in the country and eventually in the region.

"How can you get a Henry Sy and a George Ty together? But if our economy goes off like Thailand, consolidation among big banks may finally take off," said the BSP governor.

The current trend, said Buenaventura, was for big banks buying the smaller ones.

"Rather than merging with other big banks, the major ones just acquire small banks as we continue to refuse to issue licenses for new banks," Buenaventura said.

The idea is for smaller banks to merge among themselves, preferably on a regional basis.

The BSP has lifted the moratorium on branching and new bank licensing only for cooperative banks and those that would focus on micro finance.

The moratorium on new banks and branching expired in June but the Monetary Board extended it indefinitely.

Keeping the ban on bank branching and licensing is hoped to encourage players to consolidate.

"By extending the moratorium, we provide a market price for those who want to exit. If we start giving out licenses, we create a glut again which is what we have been avoiding," he added.

Buenaventura believed the local banking sector remained overbanked.

The General Banking Act, which took effect in June 2000, provided for a three-year moratorium on bank licensing while the BSP continues to observe a ban on new branch licenses.

The moratorium on the issuance of new bank licenses was imposed by the BSP since 1999, even before the law was enacted.

Merger and consolidation, according to Buenaventura, is the key to having a stronger banking system. The idea is to have fewer but stronger banks that could withstand shocks similar to the 1997 Asian crisis.

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The extravagant SSS – Part 2

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

THE SECOND half of the horror story about the extravagant operating expenses of the SSS has to do with what is classified as other expenses. Here is the breakdown taken from the COA Audit Report for fiscal year 2002:

Maintenance and repairs –furniture and equipment	P242,150,678
Communication expenses	212,635,338
Maintenance and repairs-building /leased offices	141,186,437
Light and water	105,945,199
EC expenditures	105,814,094
Offices space rentals	94,573,502
Supplies and materials	75,133,700
Representation allowance	64,205,521
Travelling expenses – local	58,086,370
Special projects	36,294,563
COA audit services	30,380,448
Maintenance and repairs –transportation equipment	12,838,892
Publication expenses	9,593,999
Freight charges	8,949,479
Equipment rentals	8,452,394
SS commission expenses	7,466,026
Taxes, insurance and bonds	7,363,253
Training and personnel improvement	5,038,102
Dues and membership fees	3,161,217
Printing and reproducing	2,561,592
Furniture and equipment expenses	2,338,837
Travelling expense – foreign	2,282,206
Professional fees	2,052,134
Bank charges	1,417,195
Donations and contributions	513,494
Books and subscriptions	334,249
Athletics and cultural expenses	168,736
Funeral benefits	30,000
Discretionary expenses-depreciation expenses	340,451,727
Miscellaneous expense	1,134,881
Total	**P1,582,554,263**

Sticking out like a sore thumb, as the cliché goes, is the representation allowance of P64,205,521 in 2002. That is no reprint. It is really pesos sixty-four million and two hundred five thousand and five hundred twenty-one. This amount was slightly down from P65,880,327 the year before. To the comfort of government employees, representation expenses at GSIS in 2001 were a sober P3,569,029.

In the private sector, a top executive enjoys a representation allowance because his lifestyle reflects on the company. He is a member of an exclusive golf club. When he treats clients, or even his family, to dinner, the company expects him to go to the best restaurant, and not to some seamy *carinderia*. He travels first class and checks in at five-star hotels. All these expenses are legitimate expenses of the business. The allowance is not part of the income of the executive and has to be liquidated monthly.

Public image is absolutely essential especially in highly competitive businesses such as insurance. Even then, companies in the private sector hold a tight rein on representation expense because it can easily be abused.

The SSS is not competing with anybody. In fact, the SSS is a strict monopoly. There is no need for top executives to project an expensive lifestyle. Besides, the SSS is a government agency and a representation allowance of this magnitude probably violates the code of conduct and ethical standards for government officials as prescribed by law.

All in all, operating expenses (personnel services plus other expenses) went up by a whopping P144,160,562 in 2002 compared to 2001. All this, at the time when contributions were no longer enough to pay for benefits, investment income was shrinking, reserves were dwindling and bed debts soaring.

This sheer extravagance is borne by the members, more than half of whom are minimum wage workers. It is also a major reason why many retirees continue to grovel at the rock bottom pension of a niggardly P2,400 a month. Finally, employers, whose contributions have gone up by 20 percent

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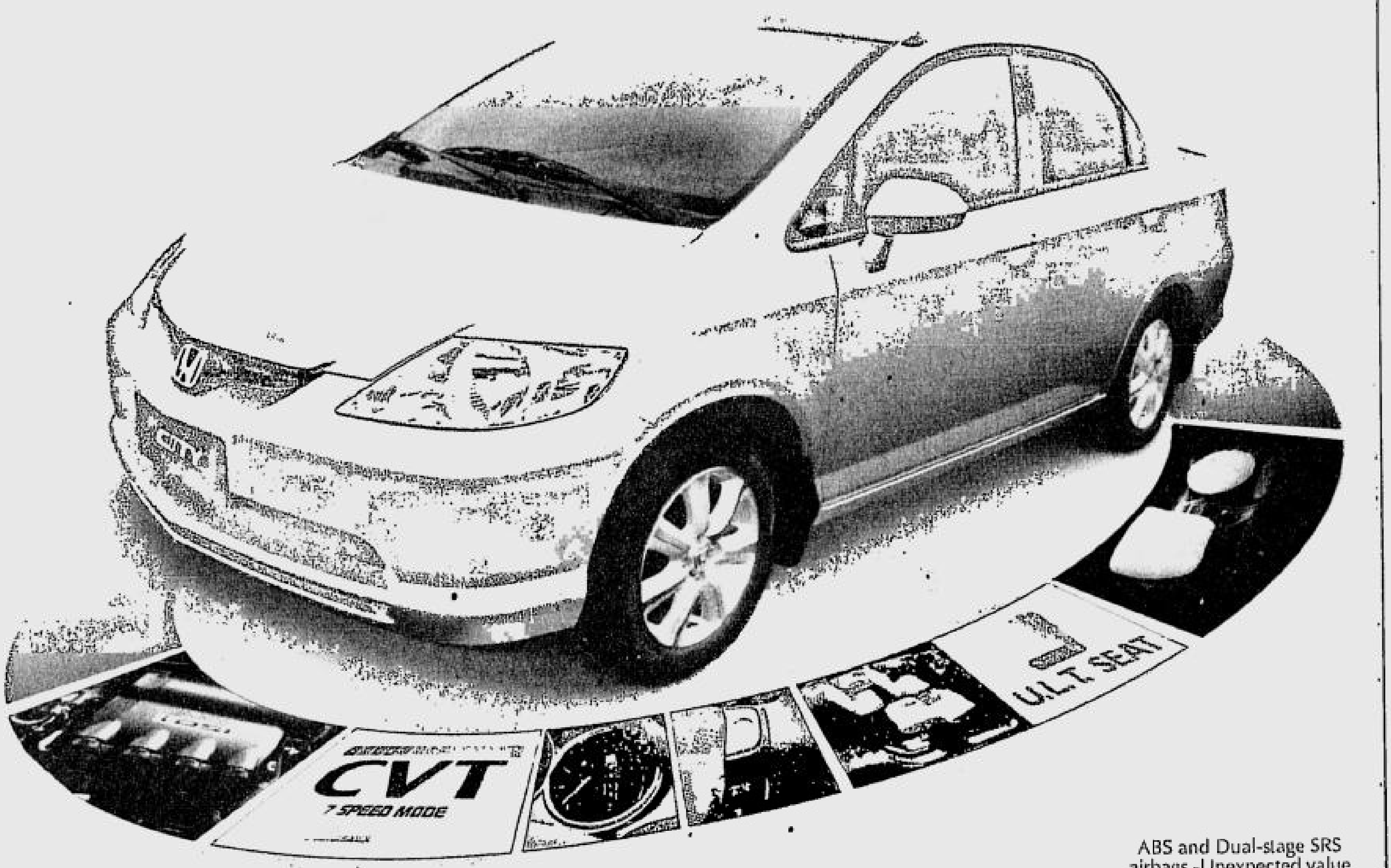

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Cocktales . . .

From page B5

Manila, 6.5 for Jakarta, and 6.9 for Bangkok.

On the entry level, it seems that Philippine factory owners pay and treat female workers better than their regional counterparts. Average annual salary for Filipina factory hands hovers at $1,600 for 44 hours/week, against $1,000/47 hours in Jakarta, and $1,500/48 hours in Bangkok.

Female sales assistants in large department stores in Manila, on the other hand, receive an average of $1,900/year, versus $1,200 in Jakarta and $2,800 in Bangkok.

In addition to Hong Kong being one of the most expensive cities in the world, Hong Kong workers have been found to have the longest work time in the region, 2,398 hours/year, but with the least number of paid vacation days, eight.

Taipei came in second at 2,327 hours/year and 13 paid vacation days.

Metro Manila workers have the third longest working time in the region, at 2,301 hours/year (with 14 paid vacation days), more than Bangkok's (2,184 hours/year and 10 paid vacation days), and Jakarta's (2,175 hours/year and 11 paid vacation days).

The workaholic Japanese, on the other hand, are now required to put in only 1,864 hours/year, and even enjoy 16 days of paid vacation a year.

The longer work hours clocked in by Filipinos, however, do not seem to translate to higher productivity levels than their regional counterparts.

From the perspective of foreign expatriates, the cost of living and working in Manila is cheapest compared to other regional capitals.

Again using Zurich as base and with an assigned value of 100, the UBS study ranked the cost of living and housing in Manila at 42.6, Bangkok at 44.3, and Jakarta at 59.7. Kuala Lumpur, with its cheaper rents, came in at 42.5.

Speaking of apartment rentals, a "cheap" unfurnished three-bedroom expatriate flat in Jakarta costs an average of $1,500 a month, compared to $470/month in Bangkok and $700 in Makati. Kuala Lumpur beats the rest of the region with an average of $360/month.

The thrust of the Department of Tourism to make Manila a regional shopping capital seems to have been validated by the UBS findings. For men and female clothing, Manila (along with Bucharest, Sofia, Rio de Janeiro and Mumbai) ranks cheapest not only in Southeast Asia but also worldwide.

For the survey, UBS asked its worldwide researchers to compare prices for a set of male and female clothing. For females, this consists of a two-piece ensemble, jacket, skirt, tights and a pair of "fashionable shoes"; for men, a suit, blazer/jacket, shirt, jeans, socks and a pair of shoes.

The survey showed that men could be fashionably dressed for as low as $70 in Manila ($40 for women), compared to $150 in Jakarta ($120 for women), and $180 in Bangkok ($150 for women).

And for Filipino travelers looking for electronic/electrical appliance bargains, Hong Kong and Singapore no longer hold the title no matter how many sales campaign the competing cities resort to.

Using a basket of household appliances (refrigerator, personal computer, color TV, camera, electric steam iron, vacuum cleaner, deep fat fryer and hair dryer), the UBS study found that the entire set could be bought in Bangkok for only $1,850, as against $1,950 in Jakarta, $2,280 in Manila, $2,580 in Singapore, and $2,610 in Hong Kong.

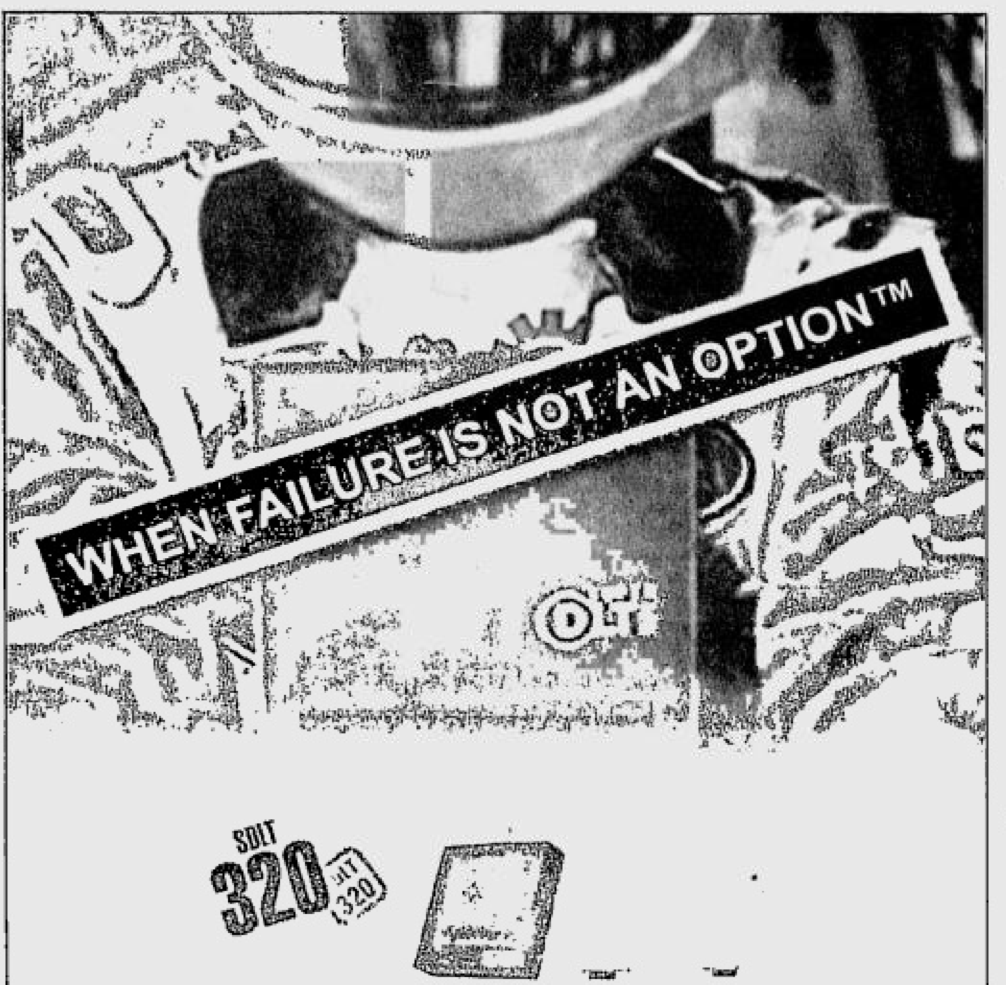
Heard through the grapevine

SAVE for chair/president Lito de Joya and his chief financial officer, the entire officer corps of PublicisAMA advertising agency resigned on Friday in protest over how the agency's French expatriates have been handling their Filipino partners.

About 60 of the 90-staff personnel also handed in their resignations, leaving De Joya and his French partners with mostly messengers, a few secretaries, and accountants to run the office.

The breakaway group plans to revive the old Advertising and Marketing Associates, a trade name the PublicisAMA joint venture apparently forgot to copyright when the original AMA merged with Publicis in 1999.

(Cocktales may be reached at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)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JP Morgan faces . . .

From page B3

JP Morgan Chase is one of the world's biggest financial institutions active in lending and investment banking. It had underwritten the last three foreign bond issues of the government starting in late 2002.

BSP officials, including Governor Rafael Buenaventura, had said that the bank's request for lower penalties had been rejected.

Last week, Buenaventura said he would even ask Congress to allow the BSP to strengthen its regulatory powers by increasing the maximum penalty to P500,000 for each offense instead of the P30,000 provided by the BSP charter.

Sources said that even the banks named and fined by the BSP in August 2001 for foreign exchange violations have sought a reduction in their penalties but were turned down. During that time, a local bank was slapped with a P3.2-million penalty.

Banks are liable for violations committed by their foreign exchange affiliates. Thus, JP Morgan Chase was fined for more than 50 violations committed by its unit, Financial Marketing Services Corp.

JP Morgan Chase's affiliate reportedly engaged in financial derivatives transactions without the approval of the BSP.

Court OKs Ramcar rehab . . .

From page B4

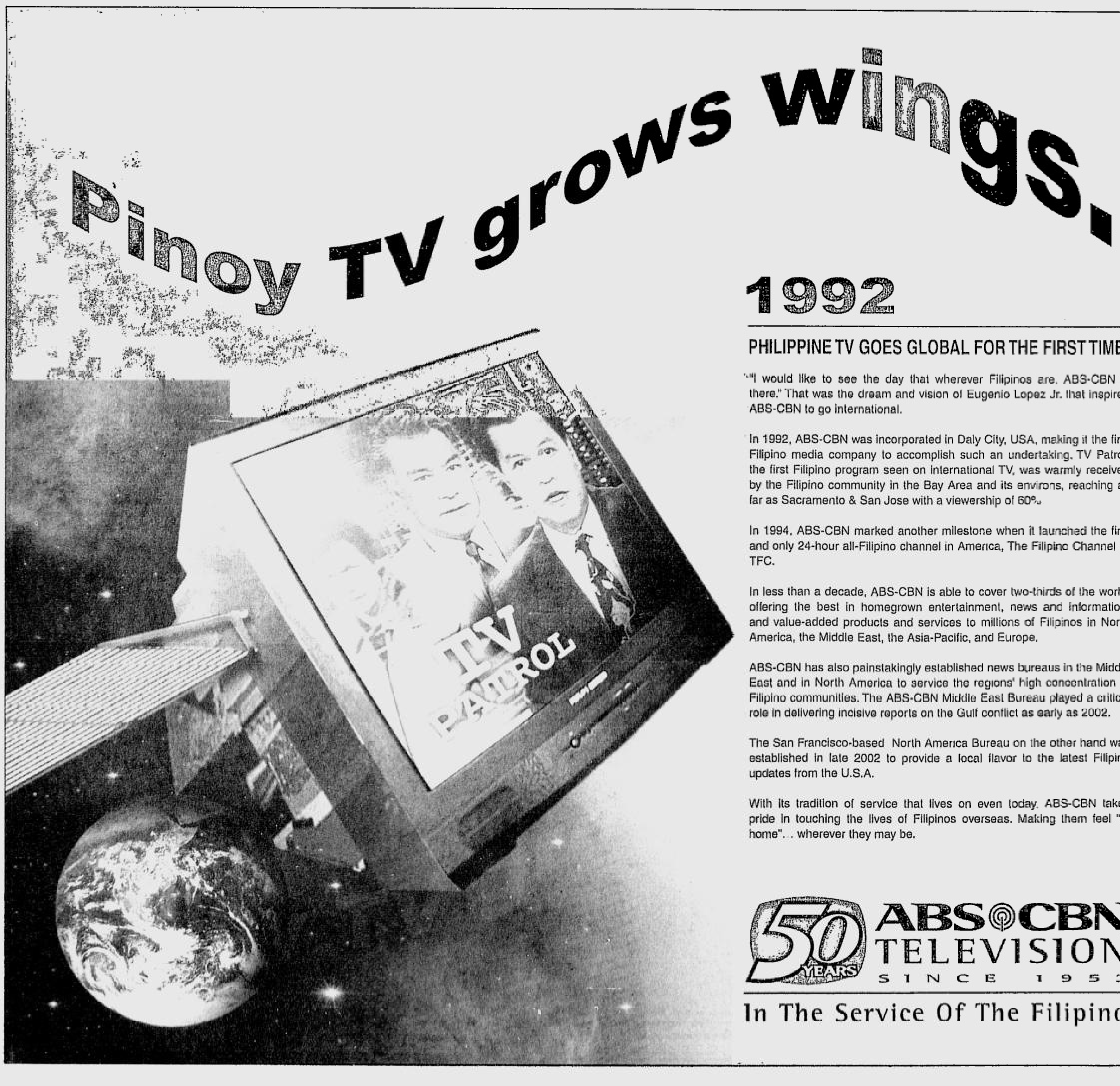
our creditors have likewise approved the rehab terms and we are now implementing the decision of the judge as contained in this ruling," Garcia said.

The ruling on the second amended rehabilitation plan also noted favorably that at the end of the second quarter of 2003, the Ramcar group had substantially achieved its financial projections.

The court agreed that the second amended rehabilitation plan would allow both secured and unsecured creditors of Ramcar to receive 100-percent settlement of their respective loan exposures with reasonable rates of interest.

Ramcar, which is controlled by the Agustines family, was badly hit when the 1977 Asian currency turmoil led interest rates to skyrocket and the peso-dollar exchange rate to new lows.

Ramcar has about 20 unsecured creditors with a combined exposure of P6.3 billion, the biggest of which were Bank of the Philippine Islands (P1.77 billion), Land Bank of the Philippines (P1.11 billion), RCBC (P719 million), and UCPB (P479 million).



1992

PHILIPPINE TV GOES GLOBAL FOR THE FIRST TIME.

"I would like to see the day that wherever Filipinos are, ABS-CBN is there." That was the dream and vision of Eugenio Lopez Jr. that inspired ABS-CBN to go international.

In 1992, ABS-CBN was incorporated in Daly City, USA, making it the first Filipino media company to accomplish such an undertaking. TV Patrol, the first Filipino program seen on international TV, was warmly received by the Filipino community in the Bay Area and its environs, reaching as far as Sacramento & San Jose with a viewership of 60%.

In 1994, ABS-CBN marked another milestone when it launched the first and only 24-hour all-Filipino channel in America, The Filipino Channel or TFC.

In less than a decade, ABS-CBN is able to cover two-thirds of the world, offering the best in homegrown entertainment, news and information, and value-added products and services to millions of Filipinos in North America, the Middle East, the Asia-Pacific, and Europe.

ABS-CBN has also painstakingly established news bureaus in the Middle East and in North America to service the regions' high concentration of Filipino communities. The ABS-CBN Middle East Bureau played a critical role in delivering incisive reports on the Gulf conflict as early as 2002.

The San Francisco-based North America Bureau on the other hand was established in late 2002 to provide a local flavor to the latest Filipino updates from the U.S.A.

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RP to seek deferment of Asean tariff reduction

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINES wants out of the so-called Asean-6 in the belief that being identified with other countries in the group would cause economic problems for the country.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II said the country was also proposing to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to do away with "labeling" or country groupings within the region.

Asean 6—Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and the Philippines—is a bloc in the Asean region that has been asked to reduce tariff rates to zero by 2011 in favor of India and in fulfillment of the proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Asean and India.

While the Asean-6 is targeted to complete the Asean-India FTA by 2011, the so-called Asean-4—Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam—was to fully realize the FTA by 2016, or five years later, because they are considered less developed.

Roxas argued that although members of the Asean-6 comparatively have advanced economies than members of the Asean-4, the classifications did not take into consideration the economic disparities among members within each group.

He noted that the Philippines, which has a per capita gross domestic product of $914, should not be forced to make the same economic commitments as Singapore, which has $20,659, or Brunei, which has $12,245.

"I am precisely calling for Asean to avoid lumping members together in subsets that make sense from a protocol view but actually wreak havoc on economies," he added.

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When men avoid Sex

ANSWERS THAT MATTER

Manuel Yubico, Jr., M.D.

Dr. Yubico is a fellow of the Philippine Urologic Association and a member of the Philippine Society of Oncologists. He specializes in general and urological oncology at the Asian Hospital and Medical Center and is a member of the Cardinal Santos Medical Center Prostate Brachytherapy Unit. He is also an assistant professor at the De La Salle University Medical Center in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

AS A UROLOGIST, I've recently been asked questions about erectile dysfunction or ED, a condition that is not usually openly discussed. Here are some of the most common questions I've received.

What is erectile dysfunction (ED)?

Erectile Dysfunction, or ED, is defined as the constant inability of a man to attain or maintain an erection sufficient for sexual performance. It used to be called "impotence", though the more correct term is ED. Now, if you've been hearing a lot about ED, that's because a lot of men suffer from it. In 1995, about 152 million men worldwide suffered from it and this number is expected to rise to 325 million in 2025. In Asia, the Philippines included, ED affects close to 87 million men. Of those afflicted, only 10% actually seek treatment, because most men are embarrassed to discuss it with their physicians. Likewise, some doctors fail to ask their patients about it because it is a very personal and private matter to them.

What causes ED?

There are 2 main causes attributed to the disease: organic and psychogenic. In some instances, it may be a combination of both. The psychogenic causes of ED include depression, performance anxiety and emotional distress. For a time, these were thought to be the most common causes of ED but research shows that they are the cause in less than 30% of the cases. On the other hand, the organic causes account for 70% - 90% of ED cases. They include vascular diseases (like hypertension), previous pelvic surgery or injuries. use of medications. and diabetes mellitus. Smoking and excessive alcohol intake also cause ED. However, of all the organic causes of ED, diabetes mellitus is the one most significantly associated with ED.

In most cases, ED is an early symptom of a more serious underlying medical condition. So if you suspect you have ED, consult your physician at once.

I think I have ED. Whom do I go to, and what medications should I take?

ED is now an easily treatable disease. You can approach just about any doctor about it. Urologists are doctors who specialize in treating male sexual dysfunction but you can also consult your family physician, cardiologists, endocrinologists, and internists as well. It is recognized that ED may be a sign of a bigger problem, and doctors now understand that closer investigation is needed. As for the medications you should take, recent discoveries have led to the development of oral medications that allow men to achieve normal erections. In fact, a sense of normalcy can be achieved because there is now a drug that exerts its effects even when a person dines or consumes alcohol. It even allows couples to be more intimate because its effects last for 24 to 36 hours. Consult your doctor about the treatment option that best suits you and your needs.

I'm in my 50's. Is it normal for couples to get less intimate as they get older?

It may sound surprising to many, but the answer is no, it's not normal. In fact, couples should be just as, if not more, intimate as they grow older. Physical intimacy is a very important component in keeping a relationship strong. The fact that their partner still finds them attractive gives both parties security and peace of mind. This just goes to show that ED affects not only the man, it affects the woman, too.

For more questions about erectile dysfunction and the treatment options available, call the Cialis Helpline at 1-800-1-888-2436 or send an e-mail to cialishelpline@lilly.com. All information you provide will remain confidential.

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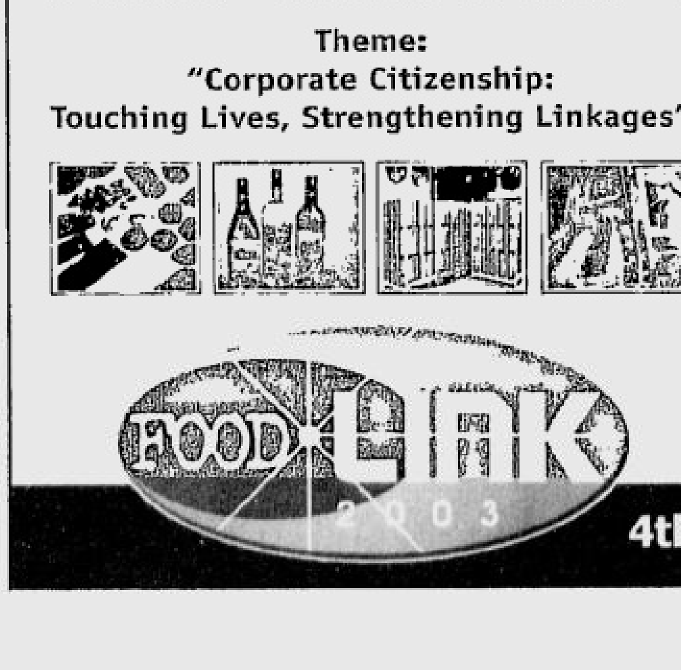

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BSP to lift cap on currency forward transactions

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said the Monetary Board would likely approve the lifting of the six-month cap on currency forward transactions this week but it might set restrictions on the volume of the deals to ensure that money supply and inflation targets would be achieved.

"We will address this week the lengthening of the tenor of the forward deals to bring it back to as long as five years. But we will probably factor in a macro cap just to make sure our money supply does not expand," said BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

A forward contract allows a company to buy its dollar requirement at a pre-agreed rate to ensure that any potential volatility in the peso would not affect the country's future foreign exchange requirements.

The six-month restriction imposed on foreign exchange forwards was imposed to ease the pressure on the peso, which fell to a record closing low of 55.099 to $1 last March 12.

During that time, the BSP also limited the banks' overbought position or the dollars they can trade for their own account to no more than $5 million.

"When there are swaps, we generate local currency, meaning money supply may expand. The economic research is looking into this to determine the amount we can absorb," said the central bank chief.

"We are just anticipating the possibility that there will be lots of swaps. Not that there will definitely be but what if that will be the case? We don't want to risk our monetary targets so we will have to put some safeguards," added Buenaventura.

The money supply should grow by only 12 percent this year to ensure that inflation will not overshoot the target of 4.5 to 5.5 percent.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. also said the Central Bank would ask banks to fully document all their foreign exchange forward transactions.

The BSP deputy governor said the cap on forward tenor was put in place after some banks were found to have used documents more than once in forging forward transactions.

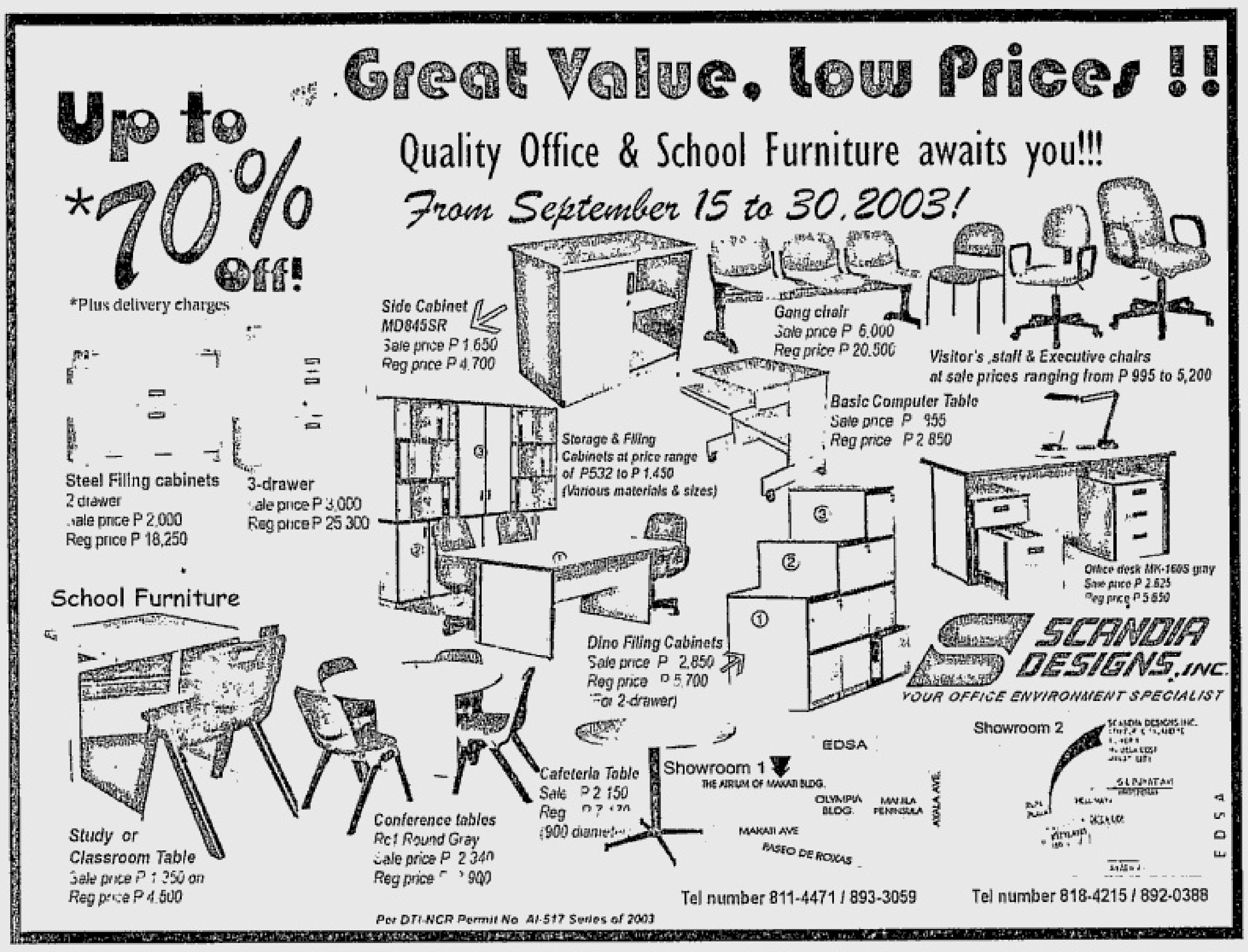
Tetangco said the Central Bank would specify all the documents that must be submitted by a client before a bank could enter into a forward contract.

One of the requirements on companies servicing dollar obligations or a multinational company repatriating its capital or dividends is a paper called the BSRD or the Bangko Sentral registration document.

A foreign investor is required to have a BSRD to allow the Central Bank to track the movement of capital invested here.

Tetangco said the circular being drafted would ensure that the forward contracts would not be abused by banks and their clients.

"This time, we will specify the documents necessary for each type of forward transaction, whether it will be for trade, debt service, or investment," said the deputy governor.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Committee to address concerns over financing companies

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has formed a committee to look into the activities of financing companies and to determine whether those involved primarily in direct lending should be placed under the jurisdiction of another government agency.

The committee is headed by associate commissioner Joselia Poblador with general accountant Roberto Manabat and corporation finance department director Justina Callangan as members.

In an interview, SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said that since the commission had required lending investors to convert into financing companies, the number of financing firms had ballooned to about 400.

With the huge number of registered financing companies, Bautista said the commission wanted to see if most of the companies were into direct lending or into factoring or rediscounting, the traditional function of a finance company.

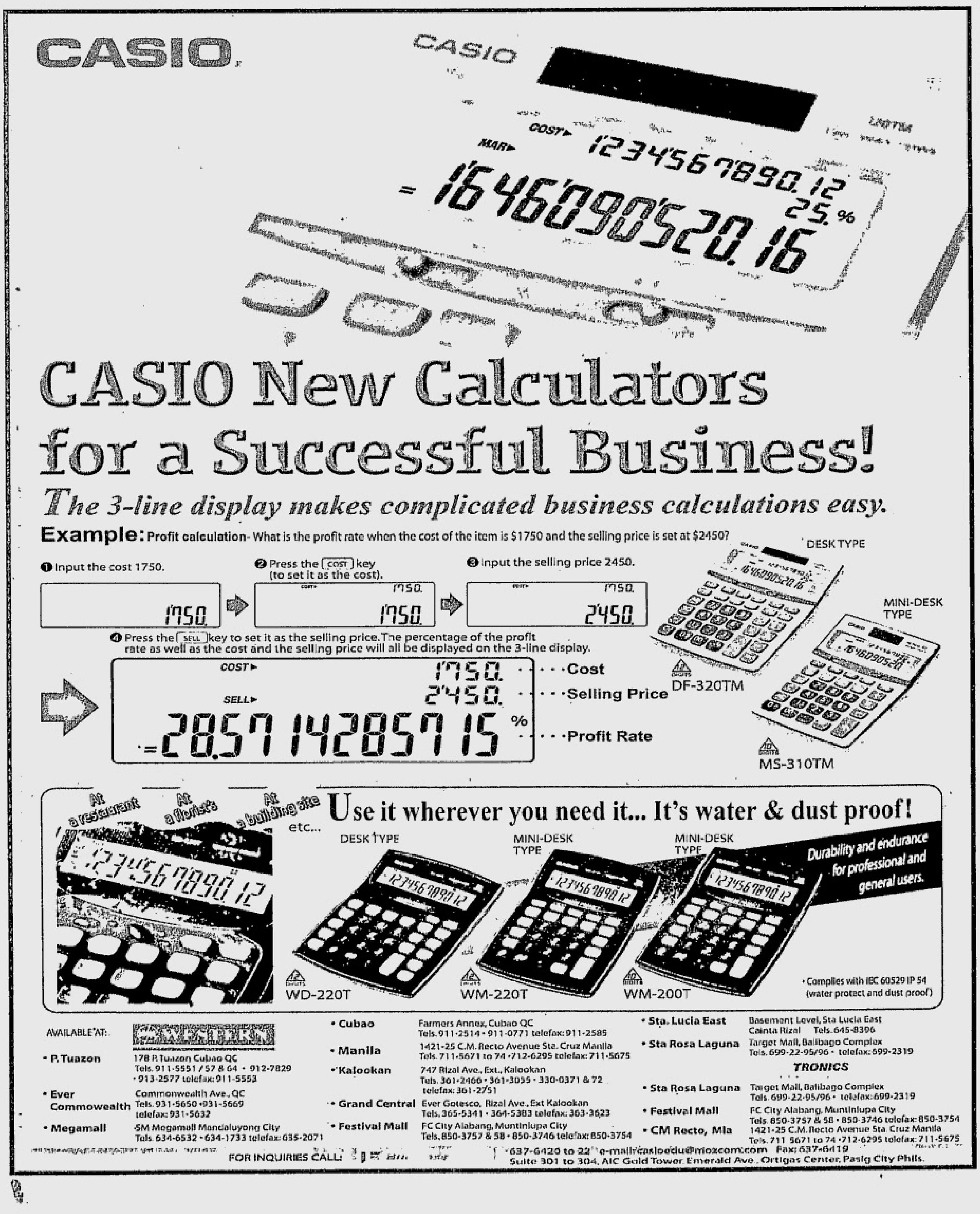
Bautista said the committee would also determine whether the finance companies, especially those in direct lending, were getting their funds from more than 19 lenders.

"If they are, then maybe they should be licensed by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas as quasi-banks," she said.

Assuming that they will not fall under the category of quasi-banks, Bautista said that companies engaged in direct lending should probably be moved from the SEC to another government agency or a new agency should be created to regulate them.

It will be the committee's task to recommend changes to the Finance Company Act and support legislation for the regulation of the lending companies.

Lawmakers are currently deliberating on bills that will put the regulation of lending investors under the Department of Trade and Industry.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PSE to fine-tune dollar trading facility, system

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange plans to fine-tune its dollar-denominated trading (DDT) board in view of poor investor interest in this facility.

The DDT fell below expectations with only a single trade done through it since its launching two months ago, prompting the PSE to seek ways to make trades cheaper and less cumbersome.

"Obviously, you can not make a market out of only one trade," PSE president Ernest Leung said in a press briefing on Friday, admitting that pricing and settlement were among the factors behind the sluggish performance of the new facility.

So far, the only transaction done through this facility was that of PLDT shares which was transacted on July 16, when the DDT was inaugurated.

However, Leung stressed that scrapping the DDT was not yet an option and that the priority was to address the cost and procedural obstacles to its takeoff.

"We'll see how we can hammer it through," Leung said.

The DDT is so far limited to shares of dominant telecommunications carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., whose American Depository Receipts (ADRs) are likewise listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

ADRs are tradable receipts which prove that the underlying shares of an offshore company are held on deposit by a bank in the issuer's home country. The depository bank pays local taxes and distributes them converted into dollars.

The ADR mechanism allows PLDT, whose depository bank is Citibank NA, to sell shares to investors despite the foreign ownership restrictions in the Philippine Constitution.

The extravagant ...

From page B7

and will go up some more sometime soon, mostly pay it.

Chair Bernardino Abes and president Corazon de la Paz are not all to blame for this sheer extravagance. The entire commission should be held to account. Efren Aranzamendez, Marianita Mendoza and Juan C. Tan represent the workers' group; Donald Dee, Sergio R. Ortiz Luis, Jr., and Teresa Alegre the employers' group; Patricia Sto. Tomas the general public. They have failed miserably in protecting the interests of their respective constituencies.

But, then, what do the commissioners care? It is not their hard-earned money they have wasted, and are wasting away.

CULTURAL, HISTORICAL HERITAGE, ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES, PRODUCTS AND PEOPLE SHOWCASED IN THE WEEKLONG FESTIVITIES

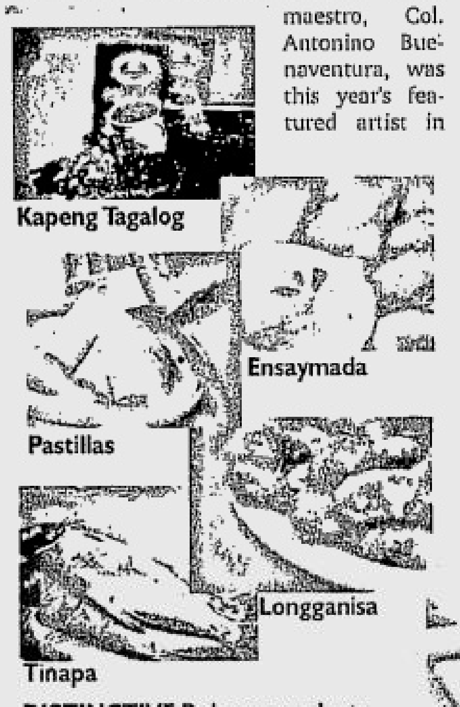
Linggo ng Bulacan 2003

By Joel V. Nigos

THE PROVINCE of Bulacan is well-entrenched in the annals of Philippine history. During the late 19th century and at the height of the revolution, it was one of the first eight provinces which rose against Spain. It has also the distinction of giving birth to the first constitutional democracy in Asia with the founding of the Malolos Republic.

It has produced many of the country's greatest poets and heroes. This includes Francisco Balagtas, who wrote "Florante at Laura," recognized as one of the most beautiful examples of Tagalog poetry; Jose Corazon de Jesus, also known as "Huseng Batute," Marcelo H. del Pilar, the great propagandist; Gregorio del Pilar, "Hero of Tirad Pass," Mariano Ponce, and other heroes of the revolution.

Many of the country's great artists also hail from Bulacan. The talented music maestro, Col. Antonino Buenaventura, was this year's featured artist in the weeklong celebration. An exhibit and stageplay, which depicted his life, was one of the highlights of the celebration. World-renowned pianist Cecil Licad, National Artists Guillermo Tolentino and Atang dela Rama also traced their roots in Bulacan.



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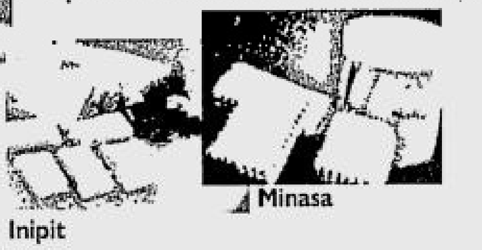


Inipit

Minasa

DISTINCTIVE Bulacan products dubbed as 'Tatak Bulakenyo'

Linggo ng Bulacan

Today, the province continues to be home to some of the country's rich cultural and historical heritage which was highlighted in this year's celebration of the "Linggo ng Bulacan." It has the theme "Pamana ng Kalinangan at Kasaysayan, Pamukaw-Sigla sa Maunlad na Kabuhayan." The celebration is also a prelude to the 105th anniversary of the Malolos Congress on Sept. 15.

BULACAN Gov. Josie M. dela Cruz

A yearly activity which started in the early '90s, this year's celebration is replete with various exhibits, festivals and competitions participated in by the province's various sectors.

Recalling the history of "Linggo ng Bulacan," Governor Josie M. dela Cruz said the celebration began as a cultural awakening program of the provincial government. The primary purpose of the event, she said is for their people to develop a collective sense of identity and a clear understanding of its rich cultural and historical heritages.

"Here, we will show how our province's arts and cultural heritage would jumpstart a stronger economic move in the province. Our thrust now really is economics," dela Cruz said.

She added that they believe that the Filipino people as a whole wanted their government to be more aggressive in the area of economics. "So, while the whole program is anchored on arts and culture, it spins off to other activities which have economic impact," she added.

The celebration kicked off with the simultaneous opening rites in Bulacan's 22 towns and two cities.

There was an exhibit on the works of Joya and Malang at the Barasoain Church, trade and job fairs, quiz shows, and bonsai exhibit.

The celebration also focused on the province's various sectors--farmers and fisherfolk, the handicapped, the youth, the women and the veterans, among many others, but with more emphasis on the youth sector. "This would allow various stakeholders in Bulacan's economic development to participate," dela Cruz said.

There was also an emphasis on the youth.

"We have made the program more contemporary in approach so the young people would be more interested. We see a big potential in the youth. As always said, they are our future so we made it a point to mold them early so they will be prepared to take on the coming challenges," the governor noted.

During the week, the provincial government brought to the capitol for free senior students of different public high schools in Bulacan so that they may witness and join the celebration.

Another highlight of the celebration was the awarding of the "Gawad Dangal ng Lipi" by Governor dela Cruz to distinguish Bulakeños who have excelled in their respective fields.

"This was our way of saluting them for their invaluable contributions and the pride they have given to Bulacan," the governor said.

The awards given include "Dangal ng Lipi" in various sectors such as Paglilingkod-Bayan, Paglilingkod-Pampamayanan, Edukasyon, Agham at Teknolohiya, Sining at Kultura, Palakasan, Entreprenyur, Kalakalan at Industriya, Kalusugan, Agrikultura, Bulakenyo Overseas Worker, Bulakenyo Expatriate, Propesyonal at ang Tanging Dangal ng Lipi, the highest award given every year.

Tatak Bulakenyo

Product launching for distinctive Bulacan products dubbed as "Tatak Bulakenyo," using improved packaging materials was also made during the celebration. It featured seven distinct Bulacan-made products that were highlighted in a trade fair at the Provincial Capitol ground. The seven products include kapeng Tagalog, tinapa, pastillas, minasa, inipit, ensaymada and longganisa.

"This is our way of helping our people who have small, micro or cottage industries to be globally competitive. We are also helping them to improve their craft," the lady governor said. She added that additional assistances to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are also given by providing them with technical as well as financial support.

Bulacan is considered a major food producer in the country. It supplies 15 percent of the country's food requirement. Fifty percent of rice and 60 percent of poultry and other meat products consumed in Metro Manila are also produced in Bulacan.

"We wanted them to adopt the professional approach. That's why we have the concerned government agencies here-DTI, DOST, BFAD-- to help us out," dela Cruz noted.

She explained, "That's the only way we can help our small industries, they will be too small to spend for their marketing, they do not have the professional support in the area of packaging. We are intervening as a government so we can fasttrack their progress, so they can easily expand and employ more people. I also believe it's the role of government to intervene so the chances of success are higher."

Economic opportunities

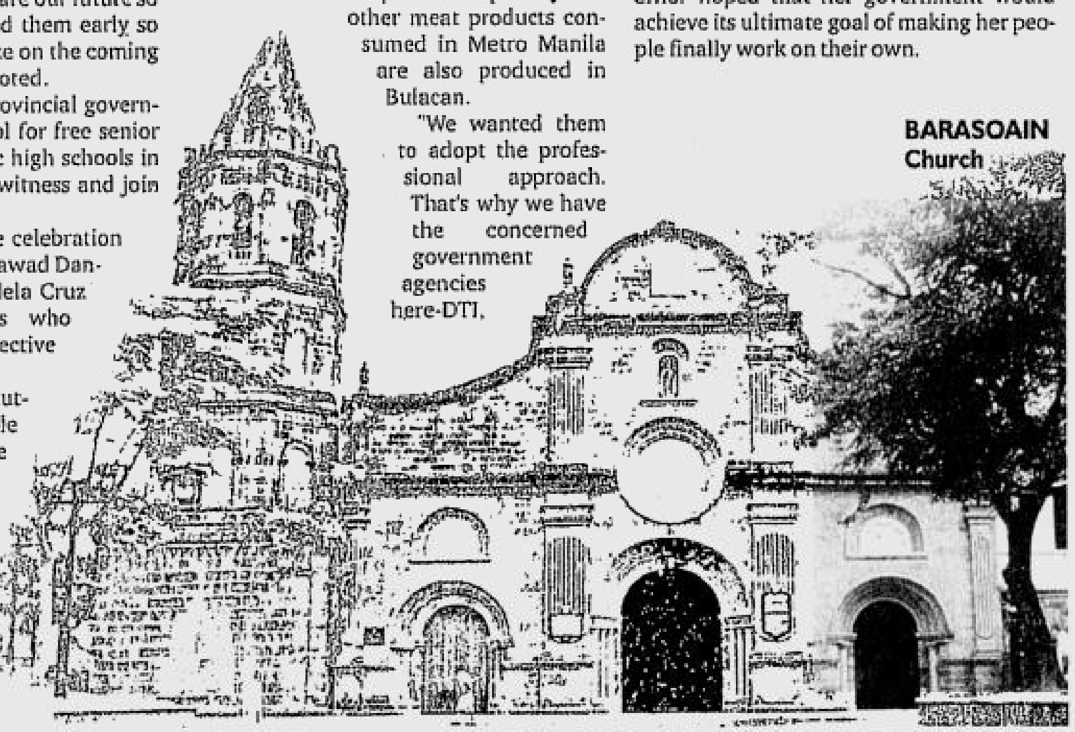
The governor emphasized that above everything else, all the projects and programs that they are doing right now are geared toward one ultimate goal of her provincial government.

"What the people most wanted from us, beside the roads and the school buildings is livelihood. They wanted economic opportunities. I think that is the situation all over the country and the primary expectation of our people so I made it a point that all of our programs should lead to that," dela Cruz said.

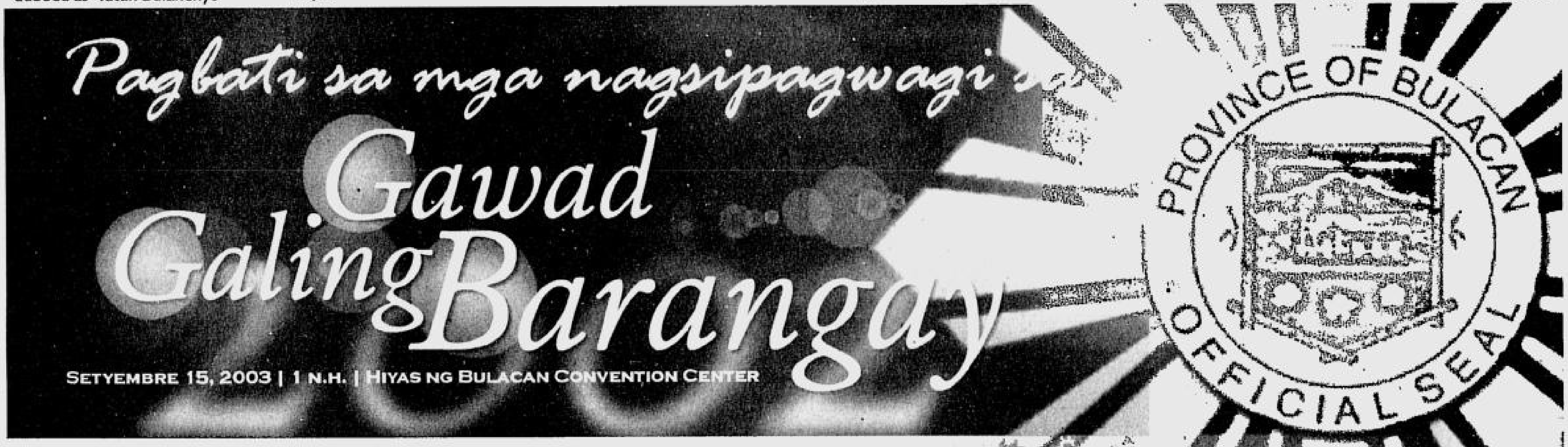
The introduction of Bulacan's best products, she hoped, would further boost our economy."I wanted the province to be known as where quality and world-class products come from," she said.

"And the goal really is for us to do our role as an intervening, empowering and enhancing institution which would help our constituents fasttrack their progress," dela Cruz said.

With additional support coming from the provincial government such as the bringing in of technology, adequate trainings as well as financial assistance, the governor hoped that her government would achieve its ultimate goal of making her people finally work on their own.



BARASOAIN Church



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SETYEMBRE 15, 2003 | 1 N.H. | HIYAS NG BULACAN CONVENTION CENTER

Ngayong taon, atin pong pararangalan ang lima (5) sa pinakamabisa, pinakamagaling at pinakamalikhaing gawaing pambarangay sa lalawigan ng Bulacan. Sila ay pagkakalooban ng plake ng pagkilala at halagang P200,000 na maaaring magamit sa ibayo pang pagpapaunlad ng programang pambarangay. Makatatanggap din ang pitong (7) finalists ng plake ng pagkilala at P20,000 para sa kanilang *trailblazing projects*.

Ang parangal na ito ay magsilbi nawang hamon at inspirasyon sa lahat ng mga local government units na higit pang pag-ibayuhin ang paghahatid ng pinakamataas na uri ng paglilingkod para sa mamamayan.

Mabuhay po kayo!

Gob. **JOSIE** M. dela Cruz

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PROJECT D
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TIGBE, NORZAGARAY
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ULONG BUHANGIN, STA.MARIA
HANDA AT KAGYAT NA PAGTUGON

Pagbati mula kina Bulacan Gov. **JOSIE** M. dela Cruz, Vice Gov. **RELY** Plamenco, at Sangguniang Panlalawigan

LINGGO NG BULACAN 2003

An Appeal to her Execellency President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to extend the Stay in office of Insurance Commissioner Eduarto T. Malinis

WHEREAS, on September 20, 2003, the Insurance Commissioner of the Philippines, Honorable Eduardo T. Malinis, will have reached his retirement age;

WHEREAS, it is a fact that the insurance industry in the country has grown by leaps and bounds through the years, under the stewardship of Honorable Eduardo T. Malinis through his unflinching commitment to strengthen the foundation of the industry, it has became responsive to global needs and demands - as exemplified when it experienced its greatest test yet as it stood its ground after the 1997 financial crisis and the September 11 terrorist attacks, which sent ripples through the insurance industry worldwide ;

WHEREAS, his competence, simplicity, integrity, and honesty, together with his just and humane ways, are the ingredients of his success in enforcing the provisions of the insurance Code, characteristics which all public officials in the land must possess and practice to realize the country's vision of building a STRONG REPUBLIC;

WHEREAS, Honorable Eduardo T. Malinis had formed and set in place - which needs completion for its efficacy and reliability - the building blocks for the industry to develop into stronger, move solid, and more robust one;

WHEREAS, there are precedents that public officials who retire are given an extension of stay in office in order to complete and fulfill deserving and worthwhile programs and to ensure their continuity and permanence;

WHEREAS, even the diverse, often - conflicting members of which the industry is comprised hold one thing in common - in shared deference to and respect for Honorable Eduardo T. Malinis who, with his laudable objectivity, non-partisan ways, and his genuine love for the insurance industry, has led the industry and the Insurance Commission with a fair and firm hand. Under his direction, the insurance industry continues to surpass itself year after year, and it is a testament to his effectiveness as a leader that the undersigned are calling for an extension of his stay in office;

NOW THEREFORE, WE THE UNDERSIGNED OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF NON-LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES, INSURANCE ASSOCIATIONS, INSURANCE AGENCIES, BROKERAGES AND INTERMEDIATE COMPANIES do hereby petition HER EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO, through Honorable Isidro Camacho, Secretary of the Department of Finance, to extend the stay in office of Honorable Eduardo T. Malinis as the Insurance Commissioner until the next President of the Republic shall have assumed office.

Done this 15th day of September 2003 at the City of Makati, Philippines.

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RP, S. Korea to hold air rights talks in October

By Abigail L. Ho

THE MUCH-DELAYED air talks between the Philippines and South Korea are expected to finally take place by the second half of October as local airlines clamor for more flights to Seoul.

Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza said in an interview that the Philippine air panel had already met and agreed to schedule talks with South Korea next month.

The Civil Aeronautics Board had asked Foreign Affairs Secretary and air panel vice chair Franklin Ebdalin to inform the Korean air panel of the proposed negotiation schedule.

In its letter to Ebdalin, the CAB suggested that the air talks be held either on Oct. 23 or Oct. 29.

The air talks with South Korea were originally slated for June 18 but were pushed back to the fourth quarter due to the lingering effects of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak on the aviation industry.

Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said in an earlier interview that President Macapagal-Arroyo herself had stressed the importance of getting more flights to Seoul because of the influx of tourists from that country despite SARS and the perceived security threats in the country.

Cebu Pacific Air vice president for corporate planning and external affairs Peggy Vera said in an interview that the Gokongwei-owned airline would like to mount more flights to Seoul.

Vera said that Korean airlines were also asking the CAB for extra sections so there was not much of a problem getting the same from the Korean government.

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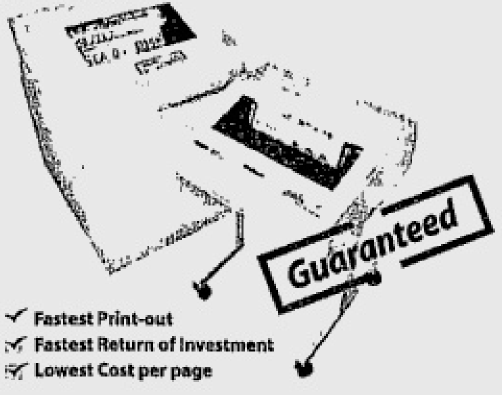

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BOI readying package of incentives for auto exporters

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BOARD of Investments (BOI) is standing firm on its decision not to grant export incentives to car parts manufacturers in the near term.

According to Trade and Industry Undersecretary Gregory Domingo, the government will first focus on working on the package of export incentives that will be given to manufacturers of completely built units, in line with the Motor Vehicle Development Program (MVDP).

"It is difficult to work on them all at the same time. Rather than cloud the issue (granting of incentives), we should first focus on one that is readily identifiable," said Domingo in an interview.

He said the government was expecting that discussing incentives for car parts manufacturers could pave the way for other upstream industries, such as electronics, to seek incentives as well. The government, he said, wanted to take one industry at a time.

The statement was made after car parts manufacturers reiterated their appeal that export incentives be extended to them at the same time as the car makers. Export incentives for car makers are expected to be granted by the end of the year, when the MVDP is expected to be completed.

The Motor Vehicle Parts Manufacturers Association of the Philippines (MVPMAP) said export incentives for car parts manufacturers were necessary to complement the automotive industry development program.

MVPMAP president Feliciano Torres, who is also president and general manager of car parts firm Yazaki-Torres Manufacturing Inc., said in an earlier interview that the incentives were needed to help achieve the sector's export growth target.

Lafayette to start Rapu Rapu project

By Christine A. Gaylican

AUSTRALIAN mining firm Lafayette Mining Ltd. has announced that it would raise A$5.5 million or P199 million to partly finance its Philippine project—the Rapu Rapu polymetallic mining production project in Albay.

Lafayette Mining Philippines Inc. country manager Rod Watt said in an interview that its mother-company would raise the amount from placements of a number of institutions and investors involving 91 million shares at 9.3 Australian cents per share.

Watt told the INQUIRER that the said capital raising activity would enable the company to commence the initial phase of construction of the Rapu Rapu project, which is experiencing delay in obtaining financing from their creditor banks.

"The initial funding enables Lafayette to take a significant step forward in the development of the Rapu Rapu polymetallic project. The first phase of construction will commence immediately," Watt said.

He said the fund would allow Lafayette to undertake the activities outlined in Phase A of its two-stage construction program.

"Phase A of the project construction plan requires the development of infrastructure such as roads, port facilities, offices, workshops and accommodation. We will also finalize the detailed engineering and tendering of plant and equipment," he said.

He noted that the commencement of work in the Albay project would ensure that the company and its partners, led by South Korean firm LG International, would be able to start production by the end of 2004.

The Rapu Rapu project is expected to produce 10,000 tons of copper concentrates, 14,000 tons of zinc concentrates, 50,000 ounces of gold and 600,000 ounces of silver.

Lafayette has secured all government and environment approvals necessary for the commencement of the development and commercial production of the Rapu Rapu project.

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QUESTIONS ON LICENSE COSTS RAISED

Oracle reports weaker software sales

PALO ALTO, California—Oracle Corp.'s unexpectedly weak software sales report on Friday has analysts questioning whether a recent rally has made software stocks too expensive given the slow recovery in corporate tech spending.

"This is significant," said Summit Analytic Partners analyst Richard Williams, after Oracle said new software sales in its fiscal quarter ended August were off 7 percent rather than up 2 to 12 percent as the company had forecast.

"The whole run-up in software valuations over the last few weeks was based on the assumption that we were going to get a very robust recovery," Williams said.

Oracle shares were down 4 percent at $12.43 in afternoon Nasdaq trade. The stock has lost 13 percent in the last seven trading sessions.

"Oracle is a great early indicator of what results are going to look like" for other software makers that help big companies automate manage operations, RBC Capital Markets analyst Cameron Steele said.

Software stocks have rallied in recent weeks on expectations of quick growth from the downtrodden sector. Cost cutting was also expected to clear the way for revenue gains to boost earnings.

"The fact that Oracle missed is a potential indication that the recovery is not happening," Williams said.

Goldman Sachs' software index, which is up 26 percent over the last six months, fell 0.3 percent on Friday as the stocks of Oracle rivals SAP AG , Siebel Systems Inc., PeopleSoft Inc. and BEA Systems Inc. shed value on Oracle's news.

New software license sales are watched as an important industry gauge since they drive future revenues.

Oracle's results "dampen enthusiasm for a recovery. This foreshadows mixed results for the third quarter," Steele said.

"If you take away the presumption of a very robust economic recovery, then the market is overvalued. If the recovery is just late in coming, then the question is, 'What is going to keep these stocks up until then?'" Williams said.

SAP, BEA, Siebel Systems, along with security software makers Symantec Corp. and Network Associates Inc. are among the companies with big valuations, Williams said.

Shares of SAP lost 1.6 percent in the afternoon trade on the New York Stock Exchange. BEA's stock was down 1.7 percent on the Nasdaq, while Siebel Systems' shares were 3.6 percent lower Network Associates saw its stock shed around 1 percent. *Reuters*

Investors want Microsoft to pay higher dividends

SEATTLE—Microsoft Corp. doubled its annual dividend on Friday, a partial concession to investors who have pressed the world's largest software company to pay out more from its $49-billion cash hoard.

The decision to raise the yearly payout to 16 cents per share from 8 cents—equal to an annual payment of about $1.73 billion—comes nine months after Microsoft broke with the practice of the growth-oriented technology sector and declared its first dividend payout since going public in 1986.

Some investors have been pushing for a larger dividend payout, perhaps as high as 50 cents per share, but Microsoft executives have said that the company needs to retain a cushion of cash as a hedge against ongoing lawsuits.

"It's a step in the right direction, but we all know that with nearly $13 billion a year in free cash flow, the company can afford a lot more," said A.G. Edwards & Sons analyst Jason Kraft.

Many high-tech companies, most notably No. 1 semiconductor maker Intel Corp., a longtime Microsoft partner, have traditionally kept their dividends low in order to invest in operations and drive growth.

Redmond, Washington-based Microsoft's shares rose 50 cents, or 1.8 percent, to close at $28.34 in active Nasdaq trade.

"It's a slower growth story of a mature company and they've got the cash on hand," said Alan Davis, analyst at McAdams Wright Ragen.

"The interesting thing about this dividend increase is that it sets a trend. Investors are going to be expecting more," Davis said, adding that he expects more gradual increases ahead.

Although the maker of Windows software settled its government antitrust case nearly a year ago and reached a $750-million settlement with AOL Time Warner Inc. in May, Microsoft still faces a lawsuit from Sun Microsystems Inc. and antitrust fines from the European Union.

Nonetheless, others, such as Fulcrum Global Partners LLC analyst Jamie Friedman, said the increased dividend also suggests Microsoft may be more comfortable that its legal risks are receding.

Not enough?

With the increased payout, Microsoft's yield will roughly double to 0.57 percent, but will still be the second lowest in the Dow Jones industrial average and less than one-fourth of the 2.4 percent average of the 30 companies that make up the benchmark index. Dividend yield measures the size of a payout relative to the company's share price.

Microsoft held $49 billion in cash and short-term investments on June 30, double the levels of three years ago, despite a generally weak economy. Investors have frequently speculated on whether that cash would be used for a larger dividend, a major acquisition, or some combination.

Kraft said Microsoft could afford an annual dividend of 50 cents or even $1.

In a research note, UBS Warburg analyst Gene Munster called Friday's dividend increase "a mild positive" for investors.

Analysts also noted that the dividend payout will make Microsoft's stock more attractive to a wider class of investors seeking income rather than growth.

"Although there will be a shift (from growth- to income-oriented investors) on balance there will probably be a wider class of users," said McAdams Wright Ragen's Davis.

Microsoft will distribute the payout on Nov. 7 to shareholders of record on Oct. 17. *Reuters*

Beatles' firm sues Apple over trademark

SAN JOSE, California—The Beatles want to take another bite out of Apple Computer Inc.

Their record company, Apple Corp. Ltd., said Friday that it was suing Apple Computer because the technology company violated a 1991 agreement by entering the music business with its iTunes online store.

When Steve Jobs co-founded Apple Computer in 1977, he is said to have chosen the name in part as a tribute to the Beatles. The 1991 agreement dealt with the future use of the name "Apple" and of both companies' well-known logos.

Apple Corp., founded in 1968, is owned by Sir Paul McCartney; Ringo Starr; John Lennon's widow, Yoko Ono; and the estate of George Harrison. It sued on July 4, about a month after Apple Computer launched its iTunes Music Store, a download music service.

The Beatles' suit, filed in the High Court in London, seeks an injunction to enforce the terms of the 1991 agreement, and monetary damages for the alleged contract breach.

"Unfortunately Apple and Apple Corp. now have differing interpretations of this agreement and will need to ask a court to resolve this dispute," said Katie Cotton, an Apple Computer spokesperson.

The stakes could be high: Apple's iTunes Music Store has sold more than 10 million songs at 99 cents each since its April 28 launch, and is central to Apple's strategy to promote its computers as digital entertainment hubs.

Despite Jobs' admiration of the Fab Four, still missing from the iTunes store are any songs from the Beatles. Apple Corp., which controls most of the Beatles' recordings, has traditionally been wary of releasing its music in new formats and has yet to authorize distribution on any Internet music site.

The London lawsuit is the latest legal spat between the two cultural icons.

In 1981, the Beatles, who had released most of their recordings on the Apple label, sued Apple Computer over the corporate name. The case ended after the tech company paid the Beatles' company an undisclosed amount of money and agreed to only use the name for computer products.

A decade later, the Beatles sued again, alleging Apple Computer was violating the initial agreement by using its apple logo on music-synthesizing products. That case was settled out of court with Apple Computer again paying an undisclosed amount to the Beatles company and signing the agreement around which the latest lawsuit revolves.

Terms of the 1991 settlement were kept confidential, with Apple Computer allotting $38 million at the time to settle the litigation.

Some think the latest case may lead only to a walk down penny lane.

Charles Wolf, analyst with Needham & Co., predicted Friday that the two companies will settle if a judge doesn't throw out the lawsuit.

The Cupertino-based company is already paying hefty royalties to the five major record labels for the right to distribute their music online. It pays the labels an estimated 65 cents per song in addition to about 25 cents per song in other distribution and credit card processing fees.

Wolf thinks the Beatles company would only manage to exact perhaps a half penny per song from Apple.

"They'll never stop the iTunes Music Store," Wolf said. "The point of the suit is to collect money and they won't get any money if they cut off the store." *AP*

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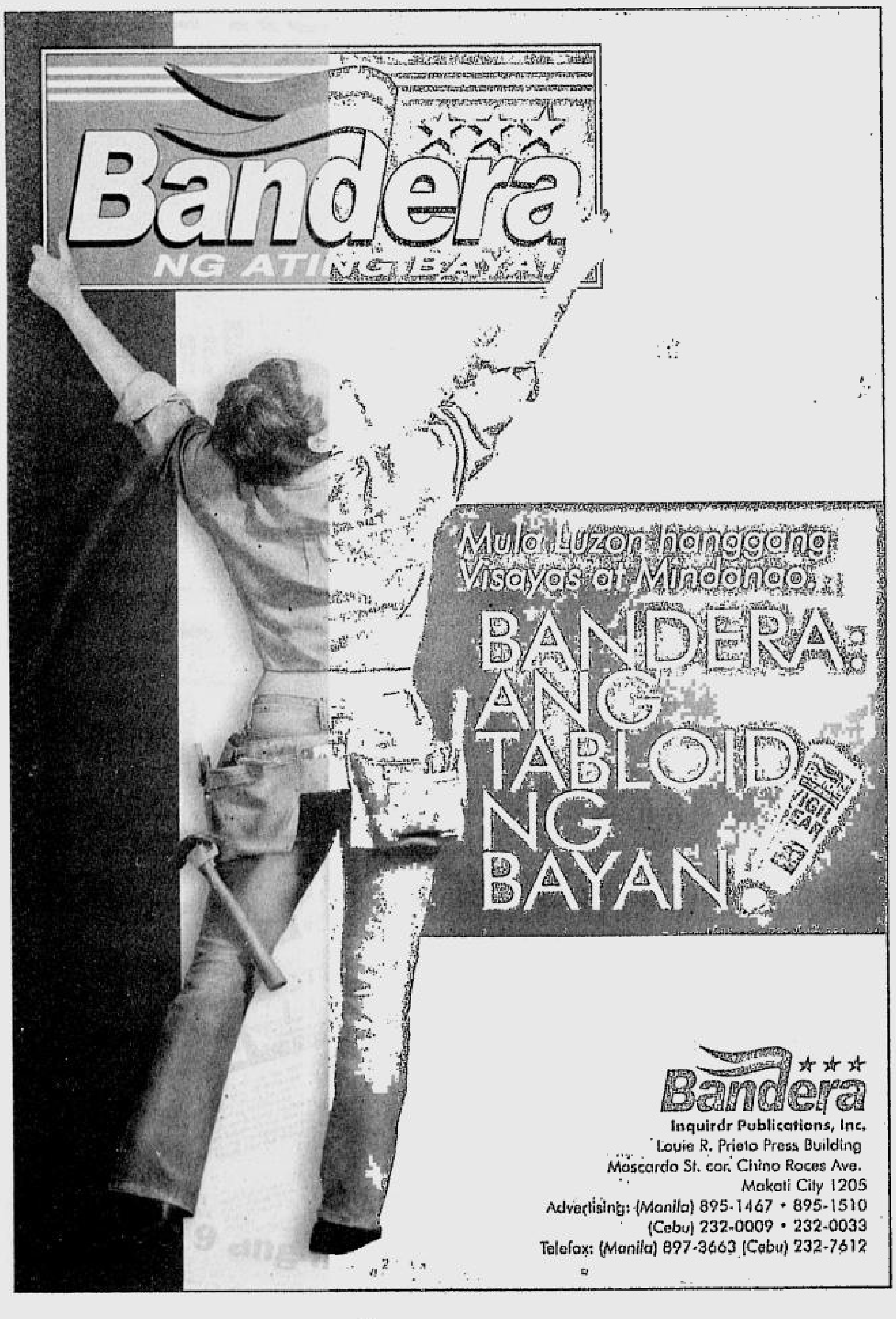

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RUSH SALE - 3 Sty Bldg In Front of Jollibee Dasma 6.5M Neg. Tel. 8264876 / 09176072551

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

PASIG

GREENWOOD 3BR DEN 5TB SPOOL MDS DRS RENT 40TH SALE 7.5M 7260443 6429305

QUEZON CITY

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922-4464/913-7632

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

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SAN JUAN

19-A&B Hillside Street Corner M. Paterno St. 3 BR, 2MR, 3TB, 3 Car P-30T Call-727-3909/725-9069

CONDO/TWNHSE

KALOOCAN

Townhse 2br 1tb 7858128 09175403406

MAKATI

CONDO MKT 1BR 9275260

MANDALUYONG

2br Condo Wack'15T 09189242022

PASIG

ORTIGAS 2br Condo 200m² Unfurn 25T ALL-IN 412-1825

ORTIGAS CNTR 3BR Cndo 160m² 35T Fullyfurn 4121825

APARTMENT

MANILA

Apt 7841746/6682108

QUEZON CITY

1BR w/Garage Cubao 721-8083 Cell 0920-7194949

4 DETROIT CUBAO 9283331

CUBAO P3.5T Std Lady 9124428

FOR LEASE

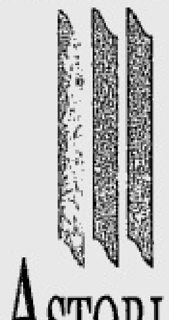
Fabelion shop off 7233697

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

PASIG

READY FOR OCCUPANCY



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  Studio, 3 BR, Penthouse Unit
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  Parañaque City

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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

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FOR LEASE
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Legaspi/Salcedo Vill. Makati
2. STORE SPACES/WAREHOUSES
Las Pinas / Cavite / Binondo
3. CHEMICAL TANKS
Bauan, Batangas
ALL RENTAL-NEGOTIABLE
Call Tel. No. 892-2681 to 96 ,
ARIEL / DING / REXIE

WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

T. Sora Office / Warehouse
For Lease / Rent 951-7389

ROOM & BOARD

BF PQUE 8257524 ; 8275345

RMS 4 LADIES 3 CAMERINO PROJ 4 QC TEL 911-5560

BEDSPACE

5br 2tb w/grg T570-3560

BUSINESS RENTAL

G/F MALATE OFC 5268048

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

BUSINESS LOANS 524-3197

P250M & UP (032)2735532

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OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

Francisco Gold I EDSA 11T 73.40m² 1cpk All-in 4121825

OFFICE SPACES FOR LEASE (42m² up to 627m²) 887-6003

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

PASIG

CAVITE

COMML/RESDL

VARIED AREAS

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

ORTIGAS CTR 43 75
110m² Sale/Rent 4121825

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

HOUSE & LOT

NICE HSE 4BR W/T&b SMV MAKATI 8963927

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

BMW

'83 A/T WELL MAINTAINED Dark Gray P415T ALL ORIG. Call 09198616193

FORD

99GHIA 310T neg 09189242622

RUSH SALE 98' F150 nego 0917-3796498 or 2727813

NISSAN

'00 CEFIRO TV 0917-8201049

TOYOTA

93 Series Corolla 198T Lady Driven 818-1005/815-2568

XE97 FLD 09196530916

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

CONDOS

- Legaspi Village FCC 119 Rada Makati Two (2) office units 35/46 sqm. Sale P1.9/2.5M Rent P250/mo+VAT+Assoc. Dues
- Urdaneta Apts Ayala Avenue Makati Res. 3BDR/2TB w/ Parking Slot Sale P17M Rent P50,000/ mo+VAT+Assoc. Dues
- Legaspi Village Dela Rosa/Palanca Sts., Makati, Two (2) Res. Condos 2BDR/2TB w/ Parking Slot Furnished Rent P45,000/ mo+VAT+Assoc. Dues
- Salcedo Village Valero Makati Res. Condo 1BDR/TB Furnished
- Ortigas Center Pasig Office Condo 500 sqm. 3 Parking Slots P250/sqm/ mo+VAT+Assoc. Dues
- Roxas Blvd. Manila Fronting US Embassy Office Condos 60 to 118 sqm. Rent P220/sqm/ mo+VAT+Assoc. Dues

LOTS

- Manila Pandacan Quirino Ave. 5,420 sqm. Rent P120/ sqm/mo+VAT;
- Sta. Cruz Oroquieta 230 sqm. Rent P25,000/mo+VAT Near San Lazaro
- Pasig San Joaquin Elisco Road 16,148 sqm. Frontage 350M Rent P40/sqm/mo+VAT

CEBU CITY

- Colon St. 737 sqm. w/ 3-storey Commercial Bldg. 1401 sqm. Rent P300,000/mo+VAT

ZITRO REAL ESTATE
Makati: 818-2781/751-5472
Cell: 0919-6745430
Email: jmortiz@info.com.ph
Cebu: (032) 232-3361
Email: jmocebu1@info.com.ph

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Pajero Land Cruiser Surf Delica Safari Terrano MU Trooper Lite-Hi Ace Space Gear Serena Vanette Elf Suzuki Canter etc. Trade in Financing w/ Warranty neg A1 9120647; 0917-8342020

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

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BNEW 5639774 / 09177348678

Van 0917-6626993 • 6421840

VANS/CAR 741-1356

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1.5% CARLOAN 7880353

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1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6567605

1HR FastCarLoan 7125202

2% w/o Taking Car 7221021

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/o Taking Car 6560140

2% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

2% w/oTaking Car 8066630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

2% w/oTaking Car 8870400/95

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GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

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Salesman/Driver 21 to 28 y.o. 5'6" attractive col.level Driver/Truckhelper HS Grad 5'5" 15016A FAST TRACK AVE Moonwalk 8236671 / 8226322

FEMALE

WANTED
All Around Beautician
Ortigas Area Call Mrs. Reyes
631-0429 or Ms. Terencio 634-2879

Wanted Office Assistant Good Moral Character Hard-working and Honest Call 812-8937/813-2149

MALE/FEMALE

Computer Technicians w/Exp. College Grad. / Level 535-5499 • Look for Jet/Dek

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MALE/FEMALE

Direct Hire Ofc Mktg Staff
M/F 18-45 coll grad/level
Call Marites 416-5460

HEIDELBERG OFFSET OPRTR 6874298

HIRING ANY COURSE GRAD. 808 W. TWR TEKTITE PSE C/P MR. GONZAGA 633-1701

Marketing Company needs strong closer to sell franchises. Proficient in Eng is a must. Salary of Php30,000 + commission + expenses. Fax resume to Ms. Mary at HRD- 898-2612.

Mktg Staf 09192535623 CAROL

Part/Fulltime 09202688107

WANTED: Medtech 746-1537

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

MEYCAUAYAN-FILIPINAS Pawnshop, Alw Complex Calvario, Meyc. Bulacan. All unredeemed pledges of March 2003 will be auctioned on September 22, 8:30 am. - Lanuza & Sons-Auctioneer.
(PDI-September 15, 2003)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Globe Telecom stock certificate nos. 80643 for 47,431 shares and 30555 for 3,696 shares in the name of O.T. Kang Scholarship Foundation, Inc. were lost as per Affidavit of Loss executed by its President, Mr. Bienvenido A. Tan, Jr. per doc. no. 345, page no. 70, book no. I, series of 2003 of the Notarial Registry of Atty. Christine A. Tomas of Makati City.
(PDI-Sept. 15, 22 & 29, 2003)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

RETIRE 2YRS 09189051567

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I MAKE P500,000.00/mo
Needs Women To Train 23-48yrs old w/Serious Exp. in Mktg. Mngt. Banking & Finance • Tel # 525-0234 536-8322 •

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Earn Weekly T928-4431

REGION 1 WT. MANAGEMENT PRGRM - LILIA 0920-5049795

RTW 4 Bazaar 3738821

RTW/BLOUSES P28 727-4934

SMART E-LOAD 500 7252311

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1 unit Honda City 2000
1.3 LXI M/T Green

1 unit Honda City 1999
1.3 LXI A/T Red

1 unit Toyota Corolla Altis
2002 A/T Blue (royal)

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locs. 161/163

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Lane 1 Unit 5 Orange St., 3/F Star Mall, Edsa corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF LANAO DEL NORTE
Gov. Arsenio A. Quibranza Provincial Government Center
Tubod, Lanao del Norte

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte through its **Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)**, invites all interested parties to pre-qualify for the completion of the construction of **Three-Storey Provincial Capitol Building (Phase II)**, located in Capitol Complex, Pigcarangan, Tubod, Lanao del Norte.

Application is open to all firms classified and registered with the Inter-Agency Committee as **"Large A"** in Buildings and Industrial Plants.

Interested contractors who wished to be pre-qualified must submit Letter of Intent and a photocopy of Contractor's License. Contractor's License must be unexpired before Pre-qualification, Bidding, and Award and during the duration of the Project. Only pre-qualified contractors will be invited to participate in the bidding.

Pre-qualification forms will be made available for issuance starting **September 11, 2003 to September 24, 2003** at the BAC office, Provincial Capitol, Pigcarangan, Tubod, Lanao del Norte upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00)**. All documents must be submitted and received by the BAC Office **not later than 5:00 P.M. on September 30, 2003**. Applicants requiring additional information should forward their queries to:

THE CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee
Office of the Provincial Governor
Provincial Capitol, Pigcarangan, Tubod, Lanao del Norte
Tel. No. (063) 341-4005 (Dennis)
Fax No. (063) 341-5345

The Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte reserves the right to accept or reject any or all informalities therein and to make an award who is found most capable in the execution of the work.

(Sgd.) **IMELDA QUIBRANZA-DIMAPORO**
Provincial Governor

(PDI – September 8, 15, & 22, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES DILIMAN
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

Interested parties are invited to prequalify and bid for the selection of a proponent/developer for the **temporary** use, under Contract of Lease, of 6.23 hectares within the **University of the Philippines North S&T Park** situated at Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, as a Theme Park. Indicative lease period: **September 29, 2003** to **February 29, 2004** (5 months).

Interested parties are requested to submit the following documents not later than 5:00 p.m. of **September 22, 2003**, to the UP Diliman Development and Planning Committee (DPC) Secretariat: Director's Office, UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries (ISSI), 4/F Virata Hall, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City; Tel. No. **920-5301** to **99** loc. **4717**; or Tel. No. **920-6923**, **927-9238**; Fax **927-1034** (c/o Ms. Ludy Cubillas); E-mail: lourdes.cubillas@up.edu.ph.

(1) Letter of Intent

(2) Project Concept that includes a detailed description of the proposed themes, features and activities of the project site, envisioned to promote awareness, inspiration and support among the University constituents and the park's target clientele for positive social, environmental, and educational values, among others.

(3) Company Profile

(4) Detailed List of Equipment and Installations proposed to be set up within the project site

(5) Detailed Site Development Plan

(6) Proposed Rental Amount/Consideration and Period of Lease

For inquiries, please contact the DPC Secretariat (address and contact details given above).

(Sgd.) **EMERLINDA R. ROMAN**
Chancellor

(PDI - Sept. 14 & 15, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
Philippine Coast Guard – Project Management Office – MSIP-C
2nd Floor S&L Bldg., 1500 Roxas Blvd.
cor. Romero Salas Street, Manila, Philippines
Tel. No. 525-8843

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY/ APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested Contractors registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as Category AAA and classified by the Inter-Agency Committee (IAC) as Large A in General Engineering for Port, Harbor and Offshore Engineering and Large A in General Building for Building and Industrial Plant with experience handling projects "similar" in nature and complexity to this project ("similar" means scope of the work of the project are almost same), to apply for prequalification/eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the project.

Construction of ATN/MAR Support Base and Supply of Office Furnitures and Equipment – Phase I at Punta Engaño, Mactan, Cebu.

The scope of work includes, but not limited to, the construction of ATN/MAR Support Base which comprises a one storey Administration Bldg., construction of wharf, construction of more or less 2.7 km road network, dredging of a 150m x 120m protected harbor, reclamation of a 3.5 ha. area, supply/delivery of an oily water separator system complete with accessories and supply of office furnitures and equipment. The whole works shall be completed within 270 c.d.

The Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid is P163,621,925.

The Prequalification/Eligibility Documents may be obtained upon presentation of a valid PCAB License starting September 8, 2003 until September 19, 2003 Mondays through Fridays from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the following address:

THE CHAIRMAN, Bids and Awards Committee
Philippine Coast Guard – Project Management Office – MSIP-C
3rd Floor Columbia Towers
Brgy. Wack Wack, Ortigas Ave., 1555 Mandaluyong City

The Prequalification/Eligibility Documents must be submitted to the above address in one (1) original and three (3) copies not later than 10:00 AM of October 3, 2003 upon which the opening of the documents shall follow.

Prospective Bidders will be advised of the result of their submissions. Only qualified Bidders will be invited to purchase Bid Documents which will be made available on October 21-28, 2003 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P15,000.00 per set.

For purposes of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on January 14, 2004 at the DOTC Conference Room, 16th Floor Columbia Towers, Brgy. Wack Wack, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City. Schedule of the site inspection will be set during the pre-bid conference.

All particulars relative to the Prequalification/Eligibility and Bidding process shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of EO No. 40 Series of 2001 and its implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), and the Notice, Instructions and Requirements for Prequalification/Eligibility.

The DOTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality or defect found therein, assume no obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bid, and accept the bid most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **AGUSTIN R. BENGZON**
DOTC Undersecretary & Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Sept. 6, 8, 11 & 15, 2003)

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
PNOC Energy Companies Bldg., Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1201 Makati City, Philippines
P.O. Box 2102 MCPO Tel No 893-6001 / 1320

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC - Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

TWO (2) YEAR CONTRACT FOR THE FABRICATION/REPAIR OF VARIOUS DRILLING TOOLS, TUBULARS AND EQUIPMENT USING API SPECIFICATIONS EXCEPT API SPEC. 7
EDC03-033

The Approved Budget is P20,574,103.90 chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is 2 years.

Application Forms for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group (c/o R. A. Sison) starting **September 12, 2003** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Five Hundred (P500.00).

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **September 24, 2003, 2:30 p.m.** at the P/CAC Conference Room of PNOC-EDC's Building V.

Applications for Eligibility and sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group at the above address not later than 2:00 p.m. of **October 14, 2003** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

BAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept 15, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
PROCUREMENT SERVICE
INTER-AGENCY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **PROCUREMENT SERVICE (PS)** invites **G-EPS registered suppliers** to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **National Food Authority (NFA) IT Equipment.**

The approved budget for this contract is P4,800,000.00.

All interested parties are invited to attend the **Pre-bid Conference** that will be held on **Tuesday, September 30, 2003, 9:30 a.m.**, at the **PS Conference Room, Room 207, 2nd Floor, PS Complex, Cristobal St., Paco, Manila.**

The bid documents shall be available at the **PS-PURCHASING DIVISION** starting **September 15, 2003** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00).

The bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes in the bid box located at the **Office of the Operations Manager** at the above mentioned address. Deadline for submission and receipt of proposals shall be on **OCTOBER 16, 2003 at 9:30 a.m., THURSDAY.**

For more information, please call the **PS-Purchasing Division** at telephone **nos. 561-6098 or 563-9402.**

PS reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the Eligibility requirements and to this invitation. PS further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO P. OPIDA**
Chairman, IABAC

(PDI - Sept. 15 & 22, 2003)

Trans Co
NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION
South Luzon Operation & Maintenance

September 4, 2003

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Transmission Corporation South Luzon Operation & Maintenance invites interested Contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the proposed project/undertaking listed hereunder:

Contract Code/Title	Location	Duration	Approved Budget for the Contract	Source of Budget
TRANS-03-IPLNL-EG-08, Installation of Additional Perimeter Lighting at Naga Converter Station and Labo Substation	Camarines Sur and Camarines Norte	60 calendar days	Php 1,185,995.25	ICG

The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall consist of Furnishing of All Labor, Materials, Supplies, Tools, Equipment, Supervision & Other Incidentals necessary for the Installation of Additional Perimeter Lighting at Naga Converter Station and Labo Substation.

Application for eligibility is open to Filipino contractors with the following valid License and Registration Particulars issued by PCB. *(Application is also open to a joint venture of Filipino and foreign contractors with PCAB License for this project).*

License Particular	at least "Category C or D – General Building"
Registration Particular	at least "Small B – Building and Industrial Plant" (Power Transmission and Distribution)

Applications for Eligibility (legal, technical and financial documents and statements) shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by NTC in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the contractor's offer to the contract under bidding, and shall be subject to Postqualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.

Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms will be available for issuance starting Sept. 08, 2003 at the: Regional Contracts Management Office, NTC Biñan, Laguna, Telefax No.: 520-8213 and E-mail Address: (grlistano@transco.ph) upon presentation of Letter of Intent, original PCAB License and a payment of non-refundable fee of P600.00 per copy.

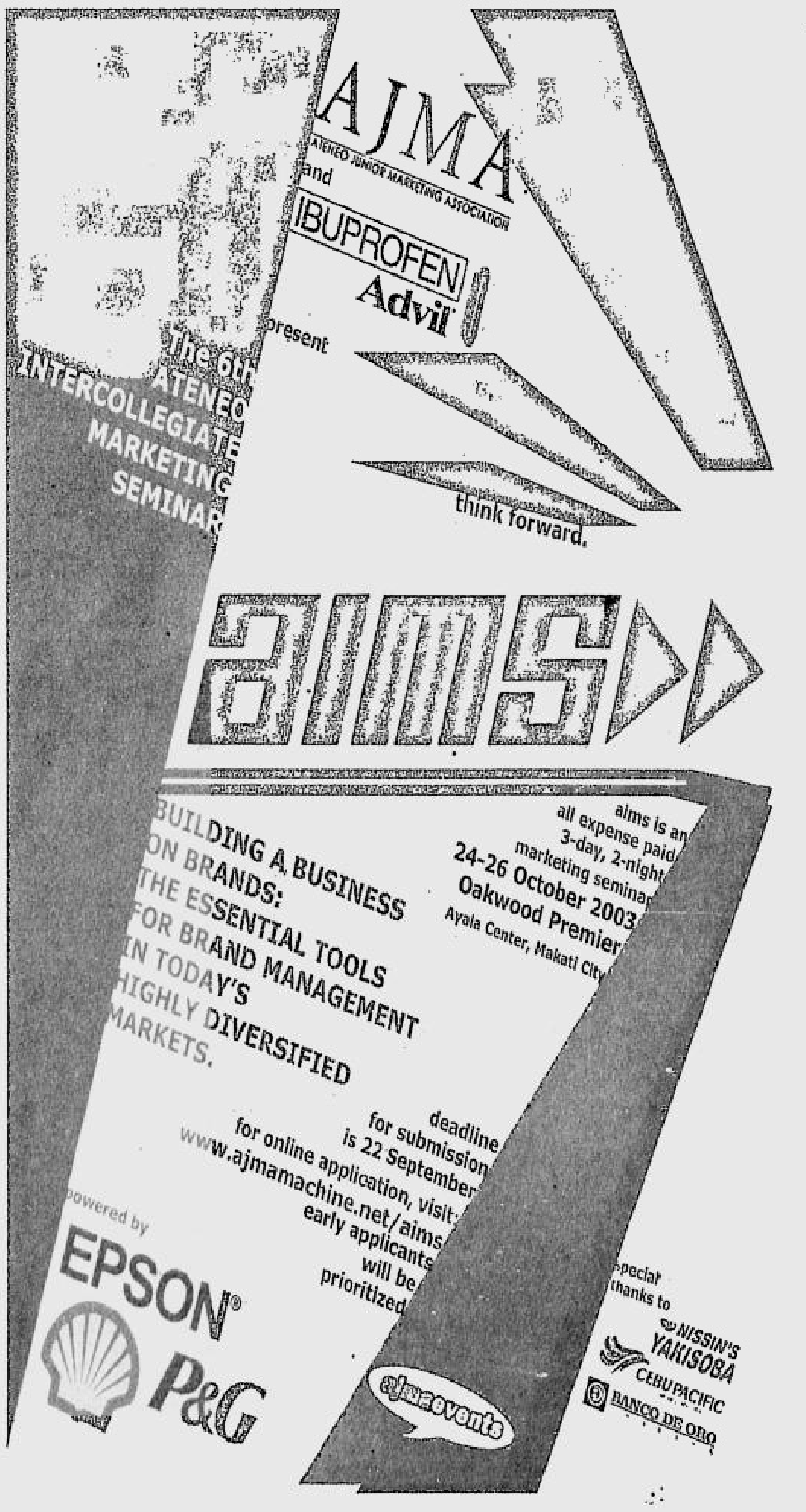
Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Eligibility Forms, documents and statements shall be on or before 10:00 AM of September 30, 2003 and shall be submitted at the office and address mentioned above. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.

NTC reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communication should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address. *(Note. This invitation was based on the latest amendments dated May 24, 2000 and July 5, 2000 of Implementing Rules and Regulations of PD 1594 & Executive Order 40).*

(Sgd.) G.R. LISTANO
Manager, PSMD-North/
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – September 7 & 15, 2003)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BEWARE OF TEXT SCAM

Haribon Foundation for the Conservation of Natural Resources, Inc. warns the public of a text scam luring unsuspecting mobile phone owners to send the PINs of several callcards before they can receive their supposed prize money. If you receive an SMS informing you that you've won in an electronic raffle in commemoration of Haribon's 30th Anniversary, please ignore the message and report the sender's mobile number to the following: **925-8725** or **920-7430**. Haribon intends to pursue the appropriate legal action against the person/s behind this scam.

HARIBON
FOUNDATION
Protecting Nature. Preserving Life.

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors and Stockholders of *Nycochem, Inc. (the "Corporation")* in the Board Meeting held on 14 October 2002 and Special Stockholders' Meeting on 31 January 2003, have dissolved the Corporation.

All persons having any claim against the said corporation are required to present their claim at its office at the UCPB Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City before 30 September 2003.

(Sgd.) **BARBARA ANNE C. MIGALLOS**
Corporate Secretary

(PDI - Sept 1, 8 & 15, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Region 10, Macabalan, Cagayan de Oro City
e-mail address: r10@denr.gov.ph; Tel. No. (088) 856-9066 / (08822) 72-6243;
FAX No. (08822) 72-62-80

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

The Bids and Awards Committee of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 10 is inviting interested parties to apply for Eligibility and to Bid with the Module Survey Projects of various Barangays in the Province of Bukidnon, to wit:

Location	AREA (HAS)	UNIT COST/ HAS.	COST OF CONTRACT PRICE	COMPLETION TIME	SCOPE OF WORK
1 Freedom, Cabanglasan	300.00	1,440.00	432,000.00	60 days	Sketching Monumenting, Lot surveys of the whole area and preparation of complete survey returns for verification and approval
2 Nakabuklad, San Fernando	360.85	1,440.00	519,624.00	90 days	
3. Manalog, Malaybalay	92.20	1,440.00	137,088.00	30 days	
4. San Miguel, Danatag, Lingating, Baungon	325.00	1,440.00	468,000.00	80 days	
TOTAL	1,078.05		1,556,712.00		

The project is funded by the Department of Agrarian Reform Asian Development Bank Agrarian Reform Communities Projects (DAR-ADB-ARCP).

Bid documents may be obtained from the Regional Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat from **September 15-29, 2003** during the office hours (8 a.m. – 5 p.m.) after paying the non-refundable fee of **P300.00**.

The deadline of submission of Letter of Intent and Individual Profile to the RBAC Secretariat shall not be later than **October 6, 2003**.

A pre-bid conference will be on **October 8, 2003** at 9:00 AM., DENR-10, Conference Room, Macabalan Cagayan de Oro City.

The Submission and opening of Eligibility Requirements, Technical and Financial proposals/Bids will be on **October 23, 2003**, 9:00 AM at the Conference Room, DENR, R-10, Macabalan, Cagayan de Oro City.

The DENR-10 reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect therein and accept the offer which is considered responsive and most advantageous to the government pursuant to the provisions of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of EO 40.

(Sgd.) **VICENTE B. TUDDAO**
Chairman
Regional Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – September 15 & 22, 2003)

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I am
the way,
the truth
and
the life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me.

John 14:6

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." — Psalm 23

Our Dearly Beloved

ELISA C. TUSING

Peacefully joined the Lord
on September 12, 2003 at the age of 77.

She will be missed by her children ***Vicky, Victor*** & ***Merly, Venus*** & ***Bert, Virgil*** & ***Liza, Violeta*** & ***Puchoy, Vel*** & ***Ted,*** **Virgie** & ***Joel, Vilmor*** & ***Cynthia, Vivian*** & ***Arthur, Vivelyn*** & ***Jojo*** and grandchildren, relatives & friends; and all of us who were given the grace to know and love her.

Her body lies in state at **39 Mabini St., Masbate City.**

Interment will be on Saturday, **September 20, 2003 at Masbate New Cemetery, Masbate City.**

RENATO CONSTANTINO

March 10, 1919 - September 15, 1999

On the fourth anniversary of his death, his family remembers him with love and pride.

"...many years of my life have been devoted to a re-examination of aspects of Philippine society and history. Implicit in my work was the objective of arousing the critical faculties of Filipinos so that they would question, rather than accept, think for themselves rather than acquiesce to the dictates of others, and actively work to achieve a decolonized, free and egalitarian society."

-- Constantino, February 28, 1976

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the bereaved family
of the late

PETER L. CHIONGBIAN

Who joined his Creator on August 30, 2003.

His wife **JHULPHA BARRICA CHIONGBIAN**
together with his children, in-laws & grandchildren

BUTCH & ROSALYN BAYTION
Wesley, Shannon, Adrian & Steven

MILDRED & SONNY KOKSENG
Kenneth, Kimberly & Kyle

JEFFREY & VIVIAN DIMATAGA
Veronica, Jessica, Rebecca & Peter

and **AMADEO**

Wish to convey our deepest gratitude & heartfelt appreciation:
For the generous donations you gave to the Don Bosco Boys' Home in his memory.
For the flowers you sent. For the prayers you offered. For the hand you extended,
For the help you gave, For your words of comfort, For keeping vigil with us,
For your visits, and for attending the funeral rites

For those who could not come but who nevertheless remembered him with a prayer.
May you continue to remember him in your prayers and masses
and may he be safely home with our Heavenly Father;
Your kind expression of sympathy during our moment of sorrow
shall always be remembered.

MARGARITA LIMDICO MAPUA

Peacefully joined her Creator
on September 13, 2003 at the age of 80.

Her bereaved sisters & brother **Ester**, **Lucy** (†), **Remy** (†), **Ben** and **Nina** (†): in-laws. **Manolo Gonzalez**, **Jimmy Ferrer** (†) and **Baby Vicente** (†); nephews and nieces, and friends request everyone to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Capilla dela Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque City, on September 17, 2003. Wednesday, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the Capilla dela Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

"There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heaven..." Ecclesiastes 3:11

BIENVENIDO M. ARAW, M.D.

Peacefully joined his Creator
on September 14, 2003

His children **Tito** & **Cherrie**, **Nancy** & **Romy**, **Chinky** & **Sim** and grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Mt. Carmel Chapel, Mt. Carmel Church.

Interment will be on Wednesday, September 17, 2003 at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

The family of the late

EUGENIA S. DIMACUHA

Peacefully joined our Lord on
September 9, 2003
at the age of 95.

Wishes to inform relatives and friends that her body lies in state at Sinaliw Na Malaki, Alfonso, Cavite. Her loved ones request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment will be on September 16, 2003 at Alfonso Catholic Cemetery, Mass will be held at Alfonso Catholic Church at 2:00 p.m.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:39

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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INFOTECH

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Editor **Leo Magno**

Colgate one of 1st to build global computing grid

By Leo Magno

SAN FRANCISCO, California—Colgate-Palmolive Co. has become one of the first organizations in the world to build an enterprise network based on the grid computing concept.

Since mid-August, the consumer products firm has been working to connect approximately 50 geographically dispersed Unix servers and storage devices in an enterprise grid network.

Colgate-Palmolive is one of several organizations tapped to become beta users of Oracle 10g, the much-hyped next-generation grid computing architecture of Redwood Shores-based Oracle Corp. Oracle launched its Database 10g and Application Server 10g here during its annual user convention.

The grid or computing grid is a group of disparate computers connected by high-speed networks so that an enterprise system can tap into a pool of computing and storage services whose loads are balanced when needed. Oracle is positioning itself to become the software layer which manages this grid of pooled services.

In the case of Colgate-Palmolive, the company, headquartered in New York, plans to orchestrate its enterprise operations in 51 countries and territories around the world using the grid computing concept.

Colgate-Palmolive has a primary data center which houses roughly a hundred databases used 90 percent of the time by the company's global network. Its main production site is in New Jersey and its backup is in Indiana.

"Our database administrators spend more than half of their time doing mundane management functions, and we expect more than half of this idle time to be cut using Oracle 10g," said Arthus Fleiss, senior manager of Colgate-Palmolive's information systems department.

Fleiss said that with the grid in place, Colgate-Palmolive's global network will be more automated and self-tuning, giving database administrators more time to perform other tasks. Oracle 10g has a host of network management functions that automate and monitor critical aspects of the grid, which Fleiss said would be the major benefit of the system.

The concept of grid computing was first introduced in the 1960s within the scientific community. The theory was to have unrelated, geographically distributed computers and storage devices linked together so that their computing cycles could be maximized and so that data residing in different storage devices could be accessed when needed.

For example, if a payroll application is used only twice a month, the compute cycles during the idle period in-between can be "borrowed" for use by another site in the grid. In the case of a website, if traffic peaks during the holiday seasons, the web server's idle time can be used to serve other functions as well.

In the past, commercial applications of grid computing were explored by computer companies such as IBM, Hewlett-Packard and Sun Microsystems. However, most of these proposals for utility computing—the idea of making computing an always-on utility like electricity or water supply—were hardware-centric. The release of Oracle 10g puts the software intelligence layer on top of that network of hardware to manage the grid. With the launch, Oracle 10g also became the first commercially available grid computing product.

Components

At the launch of 10g, outspoken Oracle chair and CEO Larry Ellison said that while the database layer of a grid has to be homogenous (meaning all databases in the grid have to be Oracle), organizations can have heterogenous software and hardware beneath the grid control layer.

"You need more computing power, plug in another server as needed. If one server goes down, the entire grid continues to operate because there is no single point of failure—the others keep going," Ellison said.

Ellison added that since Oracle is standards-based, organizations can run their existing applications from PeopleSoft or SAP, both competitors of Oracle.

In the case of Colgate-Palmolive, the company has been an SAP customer since 1995. Last year, this relationship was bolstered further with IBM entering the partnership. Although Colgate-Palmolive is already beta-testing Oracle 10g, it expects no existing hardware or software to be junked in favor of another.

"I expect no change because the implementation of SAP and Oracle are two independent efforts," said Fleiss. "If anything, it would make Colgate's relationship with IBM and SAP stronger."

Fleiss said that Oracle 10g would sit on top of the SAP software and handle the load balancing, monitoring and provisioning aspect of the grid while SAP would continue from the application server.

Fleiss does not expect to change any of Colgate-Palmolive's network infrastructure either. The company, which boasts of $9 billion in annual revenues, uses private T1 lines, frame relays and virtual private networks to connect to its subsidiaries worldwide.

"I don't think the use of 10g will affect our network negatively or positively," said Fleiss.

The network layer is critical in large enterprise grids because of the amount of data which need to be pumped in through the pipes from one server to another, especially in cases where the servers are geographically dispersed. If the grid were a small departmental one housed in a single building, interconnectivity would be easier simply by using gigabit Ethernet connections.

However, this is one point where Oracle's grid computing idea is being hit—that 10g is merely an extension of last year's RAC (real application clustering) with a more sophisticated management control layer placed on top. Oracle RAC involves linking two to eight servers to run applications and computing processes together. Take one server out and the whole system continues to function. With 10g, however, that small departmental network can become a huge enterprise grid with as

COLGATE/B19

'You need more computing power, plug in another server as needed'

ELLISON

REUTERS

Bomb scare breaks into Oracle meet

By Leo Magno

SAN FRANCISCO, California—A bomb threat at downtown San Francisco saw more than 14,000 people being evacuated from the Moscone Convention Center on the eve of the second anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attack at the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon near Washington.

About 11,000 people from the north and south wings of the Moscone Convention Center and about 3,000 more from the west wing flooded Howard, Folsom and 3rd streets as they were led out of the area at 3 p.m. Wednesday (7 a.m. Thursday in Manila).

These were all delegates from around the world attending the annual Oracle World meet being held here from September 9 to 12.

Dozens of police patrol cars and fire trucks and at least two helicopters were dispatched to the area while security people and bomb-sniffing German shepherds combed the convention center.

Convention staff informed the people inside the Moscone buildings about the evacuation at 3 p.m., although reports indicate that the San Francisco police and Moscone management received the bomb threats as early as 1:30 p.m.

Out of the 20,000 who registered for the convention, 14,000 were led in an orderly fashion outside the buildings and were asked to cross the street while the area was cordoned off from human and vehicular traffic.

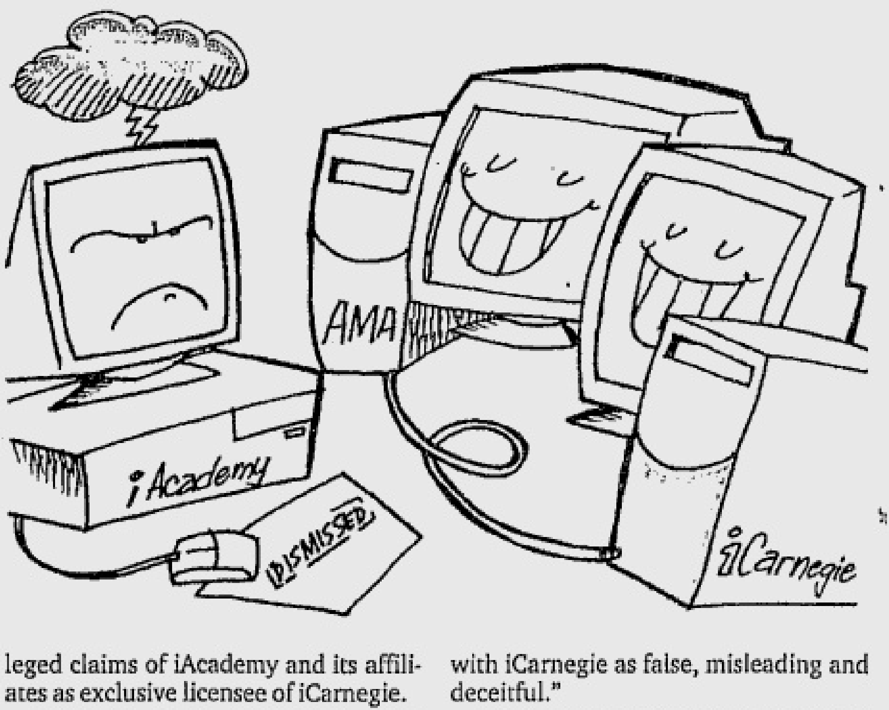
Oracle vice president Dave Samson said he and executive vice president Charles Phillips made the decision to postpone the afternoon's proceedings and evacuate the convention center within 60 seconds after they were informed of the bomb threats.

"I think in this case, we took the appropriate action," said Samson who said they didn't want to cause any panic on the third day of the convention. "The conference will resume tomorrow and security will be beefed up."

Samson said an initial clearance of the area was announced by Moscone management and the San Francisco Police Department at 4:30 p.m. An "all-clear" message was eventually announced by 4:45 p.m., although the rest of the afternoon schedules were already cancelled.

Court dismisses libel case against AMA

By Erwin Oliva and Joel Pinaroc



A PHILIPPINE court dismissed the libel suit filed against top officials of computer school AMA Computer University by iAcademy, a Systems Technology Institute (STI) subsidiary.

Citing lack of sufficient grounds as basis, the Makati City Prosecutor's Office dropped the libel case against members of the board of directors of AMA Educational Systems Holdings Inc., namely Amable Aguiluz IX, Cielo Aguiluz, Ma. Angela Aguiluz, Vicente Acsay and Alberto Buenviaje.

The case stemmed from a row on exclusive rights to courses offered by iCarnegie Inc., a subsidiary of Carnegie Mellon University. iCarnegie Inc. this year terminated its exclusive contract with iAcademy after signing a partnership with AMA.

On May 2003, Mitch Andaya, dean and chief operating officer of iAcademy, filed a libel case against officers. The complaint was based on paid advertisements by AMA, which appeared on various local newspapers.

The advertisements stated that since AMA has been granted exclusive license by iCarnegie Inc. to offer its course modules in the Philippines, AMA was the only rightful entity that could use the trademark, tradename, and logo, and other intellectual property rights of iCarnegie in the country.

One advertisement published on May 9 warned the public against alleged claims of iAcademy and its affiliates as exclusive licensee of iCarnegie.

Assistant City Prosecutor Alex Bagaoisan in the formal court resolution ruled that the AMA paid advertisement, which became the basis of STI's libel case, did not hold water.

In a ruling, the prosecutor said that there was "good intention and justifiable motive for AMA" to warn the public against any entity "purporting to have association or affiliation with iCarnegie."

iAcademy claimed in its affidavit that AMA's advertisements characterized "any act of iAcademy in connection with iCarnegie as false, misleading and deceitful."

Malou Espina, a spokesperson for STI, said the computer school has yet to see a copy of the resolution.

According to the affidavit filed by iAcademy, the STI subsidiary denied the advertisement's claims, saying that it was false and malicious, and "has caused dishonor and discredit" to the school, thereby damaging its reputation. It also cited then that AMA's advertisements were also "malicious imputations" directed at the school.

COURT/B19

Sony Ericsson unveils new mobile products

MOBILE phone manufacturer Sony Ericsson recently unveiled its new range of phones and accessories—including new phones, Bluetooth accessories, and a Bluetooth-controlled matchbox-size toy car—that will be available late this year.

On the mobile phone front, Sony Ericsson unveiled the T230, featuring easy to use screen menus for fast, intuitive access to fun games, polyphonic ringtones and picture messaging, and a five-way navigation key that is said to enhance mobile gaming.

The phone is also compatible with the CommuniCam digital camera clip-on phone accessory.

Also unveiled were Sony Ericsson's clamshell mobile phones, the Z200 and the Z600. These GSM/GPRS models are distinguished from the growing clamshell products with their exchangeable front and back covers.

These covers, which were designed in cooperation with Sony Digital Design, comes with a variety of colors and patterns that allow consumers to completely change the look of their Z200 and Z600, coordinating it with their clothes, car or mood.

The Z200 is fitted with a 4K color display and features a rich 40-voice sound system.

The said phones also come with the Sony Ericsson Image Editor software.

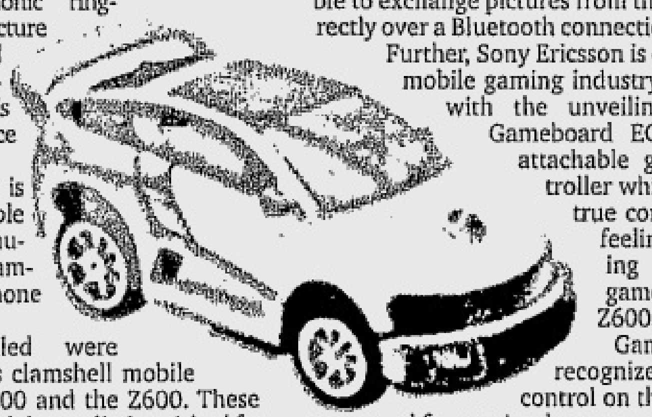
Three popular games are pre-loaded in the Z200 - Mini-golf, Alien Scum and Honey Cave. Aside from polyphonic sounds, the phone also supports force-feedback effects.

The Z600, at the other end of the spectrum, has a built-in camera. It is also possible to exchange pictures from the Z600 directly over a Bluetooth connection.

Further, Sony Ericsson is eyeing the mobile gaming industry seriously with the unveiling of the Gameboard EGB-10, an attachable game controller which gives a true console-style feeling to playing mobile games on the Z600.

Gamers will recognize its 8-way control on the left side and four action-buttons on the right, for full two-handed game operation. Different game commands such as "shoot," "jump," "brake," can be assigned to the action buttons.

One interesting product is the Bluetooth CAR-100, matchbox-size toy car, which can be controlled via a mobile phone. The tiny speedster has two gears and can be navigated from up to 10 meters, using the phone's keypad or joystick.



Just shoot me: Review of Mustek DV 3000

Joey G. Alarilla

THANKS to advances in technology, the tiny videocamera is no longer just the stuff of James Bond movies—heck, some of you have probably shot video using a mobile phone or wristwatch. If you're not prepared to go that small, however, you can get a digital videocam that fits snugly in your hand while giving you plenty of bang for the buck.

You have to actually see and hold the Mustek DV 3000 to appreciate just how small it really is. Since I'm a smoker, what struck me is that it's smaller than a fliptop pack of Marlboro Red, though of course substantially thicker. Still, at 110 grams (without the two AA alkaline batteries), this cam is light without being a lightweight.

'My wife Ellen and I bought the videocam—which I've christened Misty, go figure—at PC House, which is right beside Pizza Hut along Aurora Boulevard, near the corner of Gilmore Avenue where you'll drown in a sea of computer shops. The shop is selling the unit for just P5,950—not bad for a 3.1 megapixel digital videocam that also allows you to take still shots and functions as a webcam. The only catch is that the store doesn't include the memory card and the camera doesn't have any internal memory, even though a 32 megabyte card is supposed to be part of the original bundle. Still, even after shelling out an additional P2,400 for a 128 MB multimedia card, you'll end up with an affordable yet feature-rich camera.

Mustek, of course, is best known for its scanners, though as the Mustek website will inform you, the DV 3000 emerged as the winner in the digital video camcorder category of the 2003 Digital Imaging Marketing Association Digital Camera Shoot-Out. While it probably won't appeal to most professionals, it's a great videocam for casual users and first-time digital cam buyers.

Misty is really simple to use and even our daughter Sam, who just turned 20 months, wants to get in the act and push the buttons herself instead of just starring in our home videos. The power, shutter (or set) and zoom buttons are on top—you click the shutter button when you want to begin recording (or shooting, in camera mode) and then

JUST/B19

Just shoot me: Review of Mustek DV 3000

From page B18

click it again to stop. When you flip the LCD viewfinder, you'll see the control panel. You have the button for playing back your video recording, which you can view on the LCD, though that kinda takes a toll on your batteries but hey, they're cheap regular ones, anyway. The uppermost right button allows you to switch from movie to camera mode—you'll need to be in camera mode not only to take still shots but also to use the device as a webcam.

A cam would be useless without connectivity, of course, so Misty has two ports on the back covered by this rubber protective thingy. You have the USB (universal serial bus) port to connect the cam to your PC, and the TV out to connect it to, what else, your TV. The USB and AV cables are included in the bundle.

Misty saves video files in Motion JPEG format—and I have to confess I don't remember encountering this format before I bought this cam. Everything's cool, though, because both Microsoft Windows Media Player and Apple QuickTime support the format, and Windows Media treats it as AVI anyway. Plus you have bundled imaging and video editing software to export your files. The still images, naturally, are in JPEG format.

Mustek
DV3000

MUSTEK DV 3000

When you plug in the cam to your PC's USB port, Windows will treat it as a removable drive, complete with the icon in My Computer. You'll also activate the cool DV Console program, which allows you to transfer files to your hard disk, print or e-mail them. The thing to remember, however, is that while you can happily transfer files from the cam to your hard disk, don't do it the other way around, because the manufacturer warns that the camera might become unstable. Also, the manual advises you to right-click on the removable disk icon and click on eject or stop device before removing the cam from the USB port.

We've had lots of fun shooting videos this past week, from Sam's dip in the wading pool with her cousins Poypoy and Minmin, to Sam putting on her own shoes, to Sam riding the coin-op car in the arcade. Yup, you're beginning to sense a pattern. Of course, you don't have to be first-time parents to have the urge to capture moments on video—just don't contribute to digital porn.

The main drawback of the cam, however, is the lack of a flash. Sure, it has a night mode, but you'll barely notice the improvement. This cam is really best suited outdoors—even with good lighting, indoor shots suffer in comparison. Plus, the video clips sometimes pixellate when you're playing them on TV, so it's really better to watch them on your PC.

In terms of convenience and affordability, however, the DV 3000 is a quality product that's sure to tickle your fancy. Now, if you'll excuse me, Sam and I have a date with Misty.

Court dismisses. . .

From page B18

Lawyers at AMA, however, stressed that the notice and disclaimer was issued after AMA signed the exclusive agreement with iCarnegie, and that the ad was made in "good faith."

iAcademy forged an exclusive partnership with Carnegie Technology Education (now known as iCarnegie) in 2001, allowing the school to offer Carnegie Mellon's computer science course modules in Metro Manila only, according to STI.

But early this year, STI decided to renegotiate its supposed 5-year exclusive contract with iCarnegie. Andaya admitted that iAcademy had to hold off payment of balances to iCarnegie during the renegotiation.

During that time, STI learned that iCarnegie begun negotiations with AMA.

Unknown to iAcademy, AMA signed an exclusive licensee agreement with iCarnegie on April 21, 2003, giving the rival school all rights to offer its courses in the Philippines and Bahrain.

AMA is now the exclusive partner of US-based curriculum provider iCarnegie.

Known to be bitter rivals, STI and AMA are considered the two largest computer schools in the Philippines.

Colgate one of 1st to build. . .

From page B18

many as 128 servers in different parts of the world. That is where the high-speed network connection is needed.

Computing islands

One other Oracle 10g beta user is the CERN particle acceleration physics center. Ellison said that up to 3,300 servers combing through 10 petabytes of data would be managed in a grid environment connecting five geographically dispersed sites.

Other beta users include Qualcomm, Bearing Point, the New Mexico Department of Transportation, Proligence, Platform Computing Inc., ENST Bretagne, Tecsis and BioMed.

Although the availability and pricing of Oracle 10g was not disclosed at the launch, once full implementation is finished the beta users are expected to get a good deal from Oracle, which has long been seen as an expensive product.

"We haven't talked about pricing yet but I do expect that we'll be given a few extras in terms of support," said Colgate-Palmolive's Fleiss.

At the launch, Oracle—the second most profitable software company in the world—stressed the significance of software in enabling the grid. Ellison also beat down this point to differentiate his version of the grid from that of IBM.

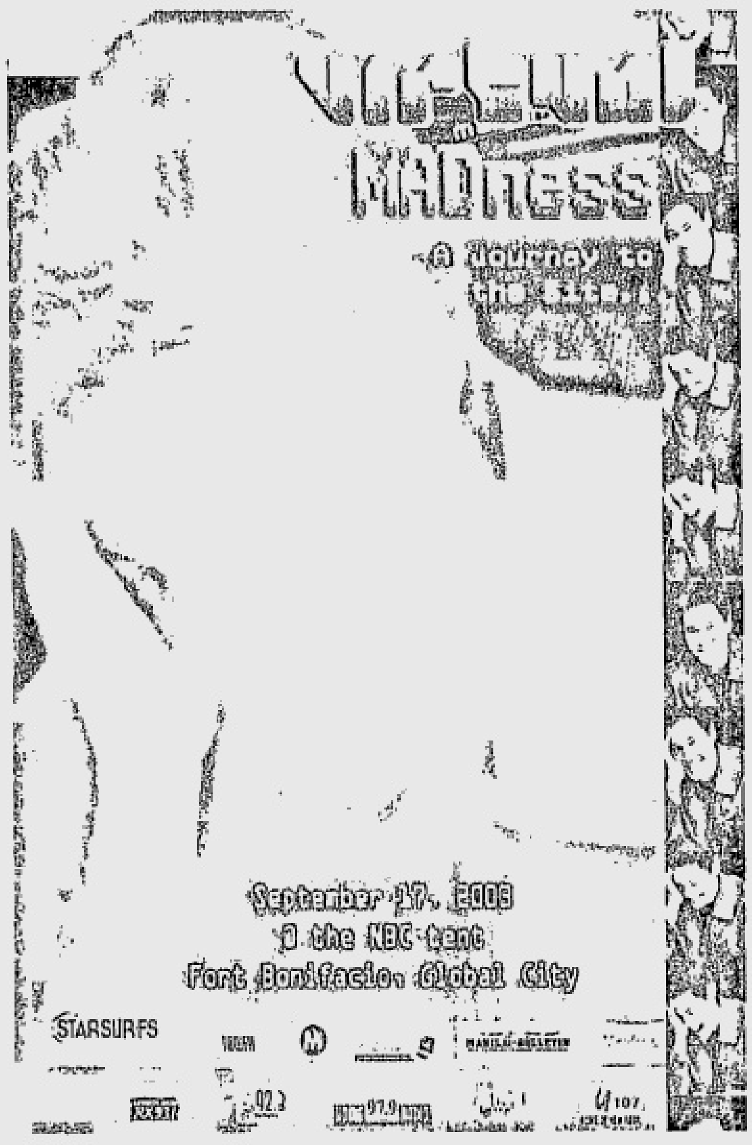
"It's not just about clustering hardware together. On top of that is the software," Ellison said. "Software creates the illusion that it's just one big computer when in fact it's not. It's running across a collection of database servers interconnected with application servers and storage devices. The intelligence added to the software layer accesses and manages the computing resources, making grid computing possible."

Ellison also predicted that grid computing will eradicate what he calls "islands of computing" where networks stand on their own and are not maximized because individual components are not used all the time when other services are needed. He said that load balancing and resource sharing would ultimately lead to huge cost-savings because of equipment maximization and the grid's inherent scalability, since you can add more servers as needed without overhauling the entire network.

Grid computing, however, is far from being a panacea. While the idea of pooling together servers and storage devices and balancing their load across an enterprise grid seems sound, not everyone would be willing to share their computing resources. The net effect would be several isolated grids in different parts of the world instead of one universal one the same way the Internet is accessed worldwide.

This puts a damper to the idea of utility computing where technology pundits dream of just switching on their computers and they would instantly be connected to a pool of computers working together to deliver data and applications to your terminal as efficiently as possible. Again, this idea goes back to the analogy of computing power being a commodity resource like electricity.

"I don't think companies with grids would be comfortable with the idea of having their computers share the load with just anyone out there," said Andy Mendelsohn, SVP for Oracle database development. "The same way there are corporate intranets, there would be private grids used internally by that enterprise alone."



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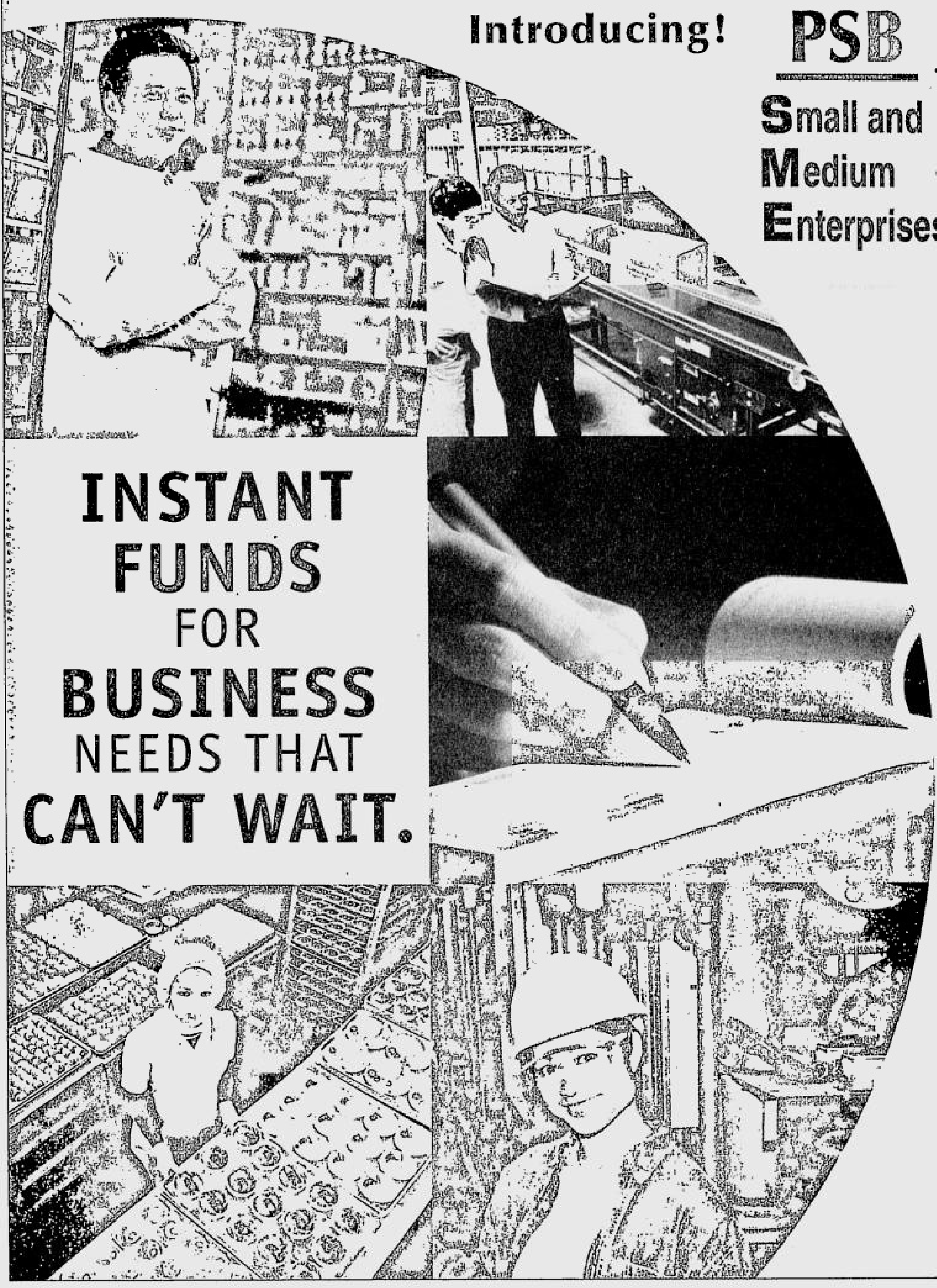

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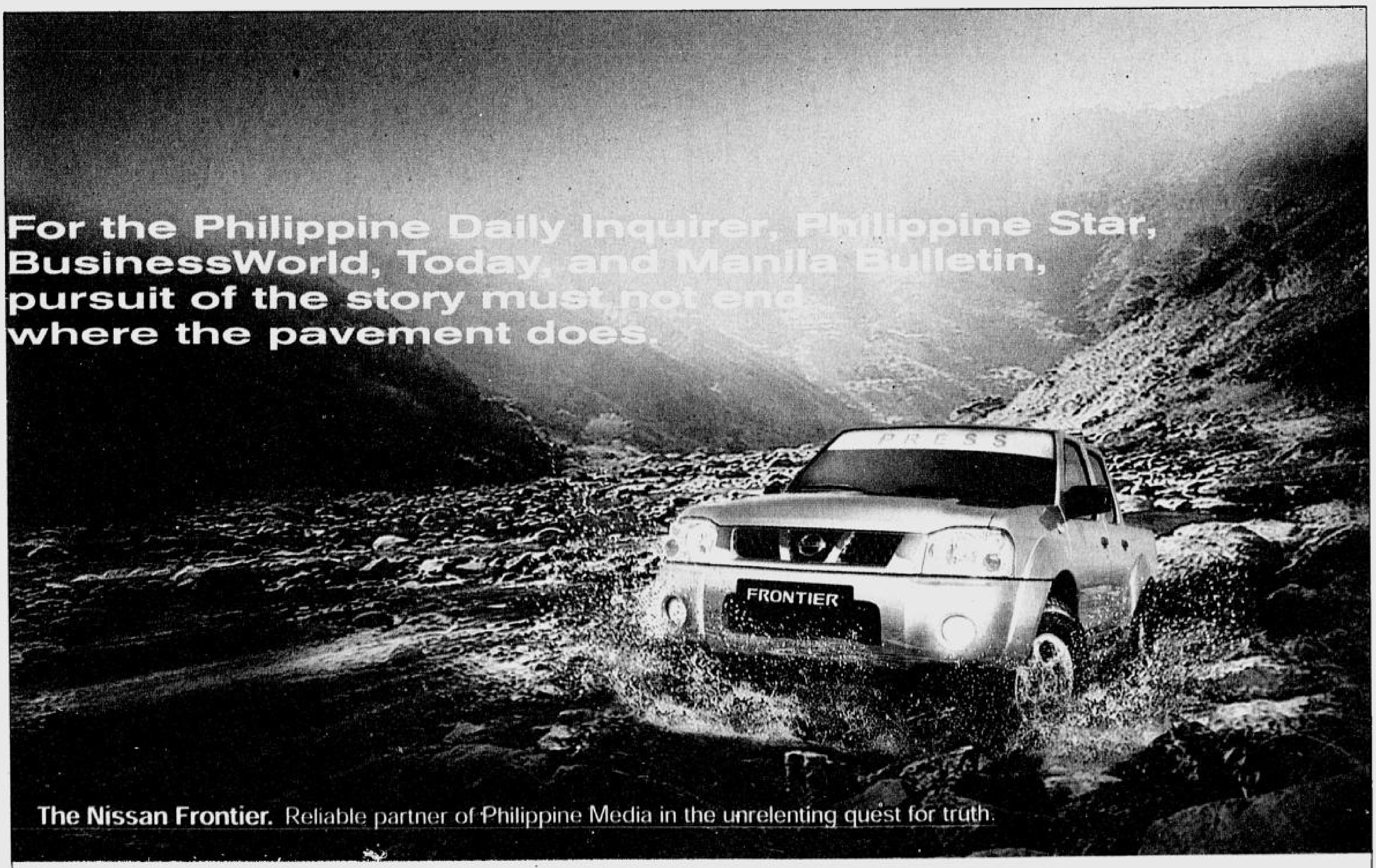
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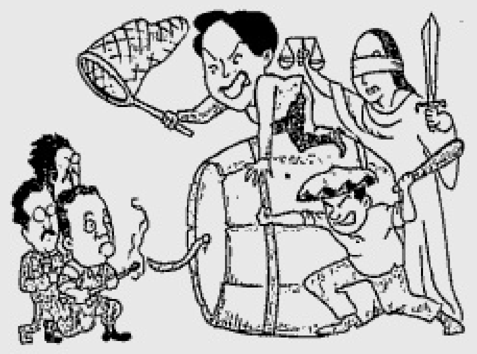


By Dennis M. Arroyo
Contributor

EVERYONE knows this: Political instability is terrible for the economy. It leads businessmen to postpone their investments. It spooks the stock market. It blows dollars away from the country. It makes it harder for the government to borrow from abroad. All these kill jobs and batter the poor.

"Added political uncertainty would weaken foreign confidence and put additional strains on economic performance and the balance of payments," says Moody's Investors Service.

Not just a clash of politicians

Fueling instability is the latest clash between the Administration and the Opposition. The Jose Pidal controversy stokes much public attention, as investigators probe corruption on live TV.

But the conflict between personalities is just the wick of the powder keg. The real danger is the potential for mobilizing masses and soldiers to revolt. What the business community likely fears is a repeat of July 27. That is, will the political rifts trigger another coup attempt?

Threats on many fronts

"The government now finds itself in a multi-front struggle, against entrenched secessionists and terrorists—the Abu Sayyaf Group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the communist New Peoples' Army, and the Jemaah Islamiya—and lately against insurrectionists," adds Moody's Investors Service. "Will the Macapagal-Arroyo administration maintain the upper hand and continue its efforts to ensure stability in the Philippines?"

Recall that July 27, 2003 was no mere mutiny over corruption issues. It was a well-planned putsch that sought to install a 15-man junta. The plan was to take over Malacañang, Camp Aguinaldo, Camp Crame, Fort Bonifacio, Sangley Point, the international airports in Manila, General Santos and Davao, GMA Channel 7 and DZRH.

The plotters wanted to attack on Aug. 2, but they were discovered early on. Troop movements were halted; reinforcements could not come to Manila. This forced the remaining rebels to regroup in panic in Oakwood hotel.

Revisiting a 1990 report

The rebel threat remains like a dormant virus. How then should the state deal with the restless military? It is helpful to revisit a document most relevant to the times. This is the 1990 Davide Commission Report written during the era of President Corazon Aquino. Ricardo Romulo reviewed it for a Social Weather Stations research forum.

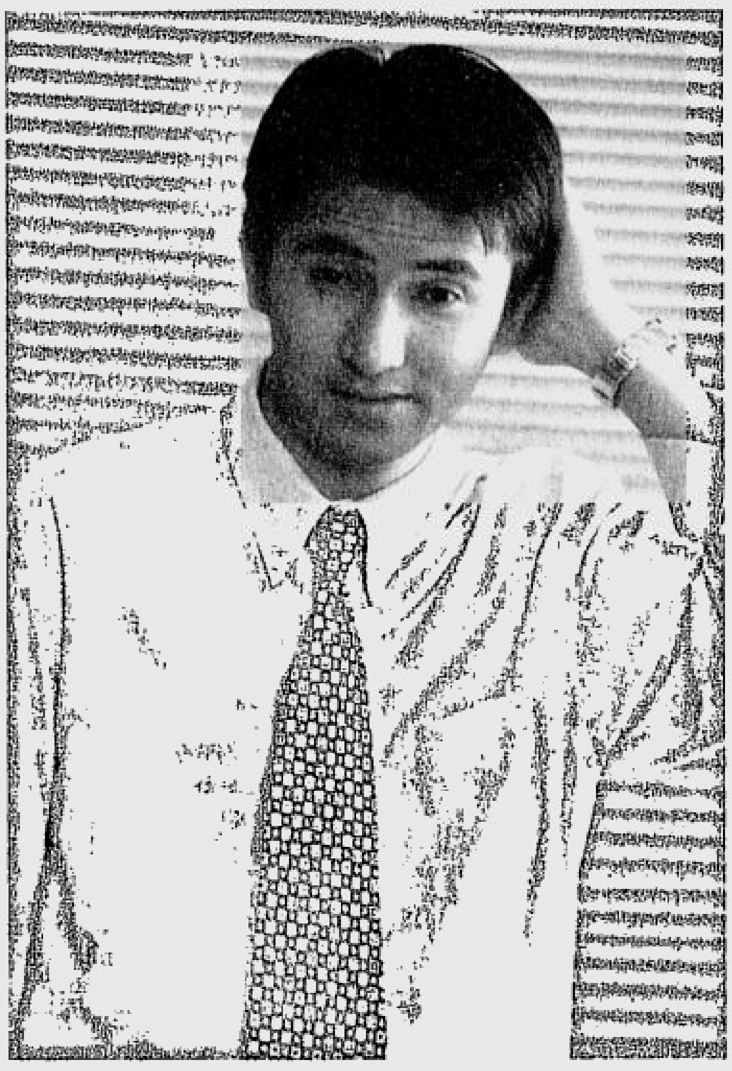
The report came in the wake of several coup attempts, including the most serious attacks of August 1987 and December 1989. The forces of Col. Gringo Honasan rained fire and death, even hitting Malacañang from the air in the latter putsch. The rebels did not get the punishment they deserved, so they went on to plot the revolt of 2003.

Summary of reforms

The Davide Commission stressed the need to punish the guilty to prevent further mischief. Here then is a summary of some suggested measures:

- Speed up the investigations for the rebels and conduct continuous trials for those who were already charged. The guilty should be punished with dishonorable discharge and their benefits should be forfeited.
- Lighter penalties should be slapped on those guilty of lesser offenses. Enforce Sec. 68 of the Articles of War for failure to report attempts at coup recruitment.
- Immediately release the soldiers for whom evidence against them is not sufficient for prosecution. If more evidence turns up later, the cases of these soldiers can be reopened.
- All those who have been cleared must be restored to the AFP's chain of command.

RESOLVE/ B2-3



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New ideas to oust old mindsets

MAPPING THE FUTURE

By Franco G. del Rosario

ATTENTION CEOs! You don't want to miss the 2nd MAP International CEO Conference on November 4 at Shangri-la Makati. This year's conference theme is 'New Ideas to Oust Old Mindsets (Solutions In Tough Times).'

As tough times get tougher, the same old mindset is no longer cutting it. MAP has crafted this conference specifically for CEOs. As we know, CEOs are fastidious when it comes to conferences, we made sure that CEOs that attend will come away with some real good stuff that they can use in their business and everyday life.

With topics like: "Get off Your High Horse Leadership," "If Joseph Can Dream It So Can You," "If David Can Beat Goliath So Can You," you can be sure that this will not be your typical business conference.

"I Can, I Must, and I Will Make A Difference" mindset executives are digging their heels deep in search of new ideas. Many business leaders are taking on a mindset of "I can, I must and I will make a difference!" Now more than ever, executives believe that this is the one mindset that will get them through these tough times. This starts with believing they can make a difference. They do not let the tough times overwhelm them. They believe that conviction and commitment make things happen.

In Jim Collins latest bestseller, "Good To Great," he describes this as "unwavering faith amid the brutal facts." Collins relates a story in the late '60s of the Procter & Gamble invasion of the paper-based consumer business. Instead of figuring out how to get back on the offensive and win, Scott conceded to P&G and just tried to protect what it had.

On the other hand, Kimberly Clark had a totally different mindset. Scott looked at competing against P&G as a liability but Kimberly viewed going up against the best as an asset and an opportunity to make Kimberly better and stronger that would stimulate the competitive juices of Kimberly people at all levels.

The lesson here in Collins' words, are Scott and Kimberly differing reactions to P&G brings us to a vital point. In confronting the brutal facts, the good-to-great companies left themselves stronger or more resilient, not weaker and more dispirited. There is a sense of exhilaration that comes in facing head-on the hard truths and saying, "We will never give up. We will never capitulate. It might take a long time, but we will find a way to prevail."

This example illustrates two contrasting mindsets: The Scott Paper mindset, "Well, that's the way it is" And Kimberly's "We can, must and will make a difference "mindset."

"A make a difference mindset" is the start in this journey of mindsets. Below are some recommendations on change in mindsets and shows a kind of progression in mindsets. A discussion of these topics will follow.

Change mindsets from:

- "Well, That's The Way It Is" to "I Can, Must and Will Make A Difference"
- "Been There, Done That" to "Personal Humility"
- "High Horse Leadership" to "Connecting With People Leadership"
- "That's What They Are Paid For" to "Don't Take Anyone For Granted"
- "It's A Waste Of Time" to "I Share With Others Make A Difference"
- "I Know And Can Do It All" to "Together We Can Make A Big Difference."
- "Only Say The Right Things" to "To Others From The Heart."
- "Whatever Happens Protect Your Image" to "Be Yourself. Share Experiences With People"

"Get off your high horse leadership"

During tough times, executives look for even small successes to keep their spirits up. The task of cultivating their "make a difference attitude" to become stronger is more challenging when occasions to celebrate successes are few and far between. They find themselves having to make a conscious effort to regularly check their attitude as they know that their attitude is contagious and their attitude speaks louder than their words.

A high horse leadership "sometimes entails that's what they are paid for" mindset. The opposing mindset is "don't take anyone for granted." This mindset could have fatal consequences as we see in the life of Goliath.

"If David can beat Goliath so can you"

Goliath simply could not oust his old mindset and he took for granted a small shepherd boy. As a result it cost him his life. The consequences of stubbornly holding on to old mindsets can bring a corporation to its knees.

Everyone was afraid of Goliath. But David had a different mindset. He stood up to Go-

NEW/ B2-4

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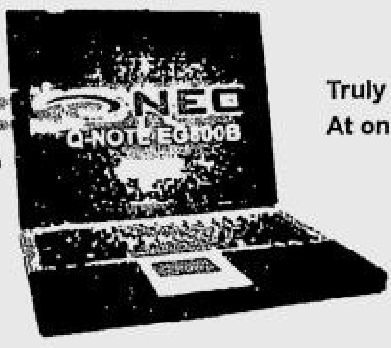

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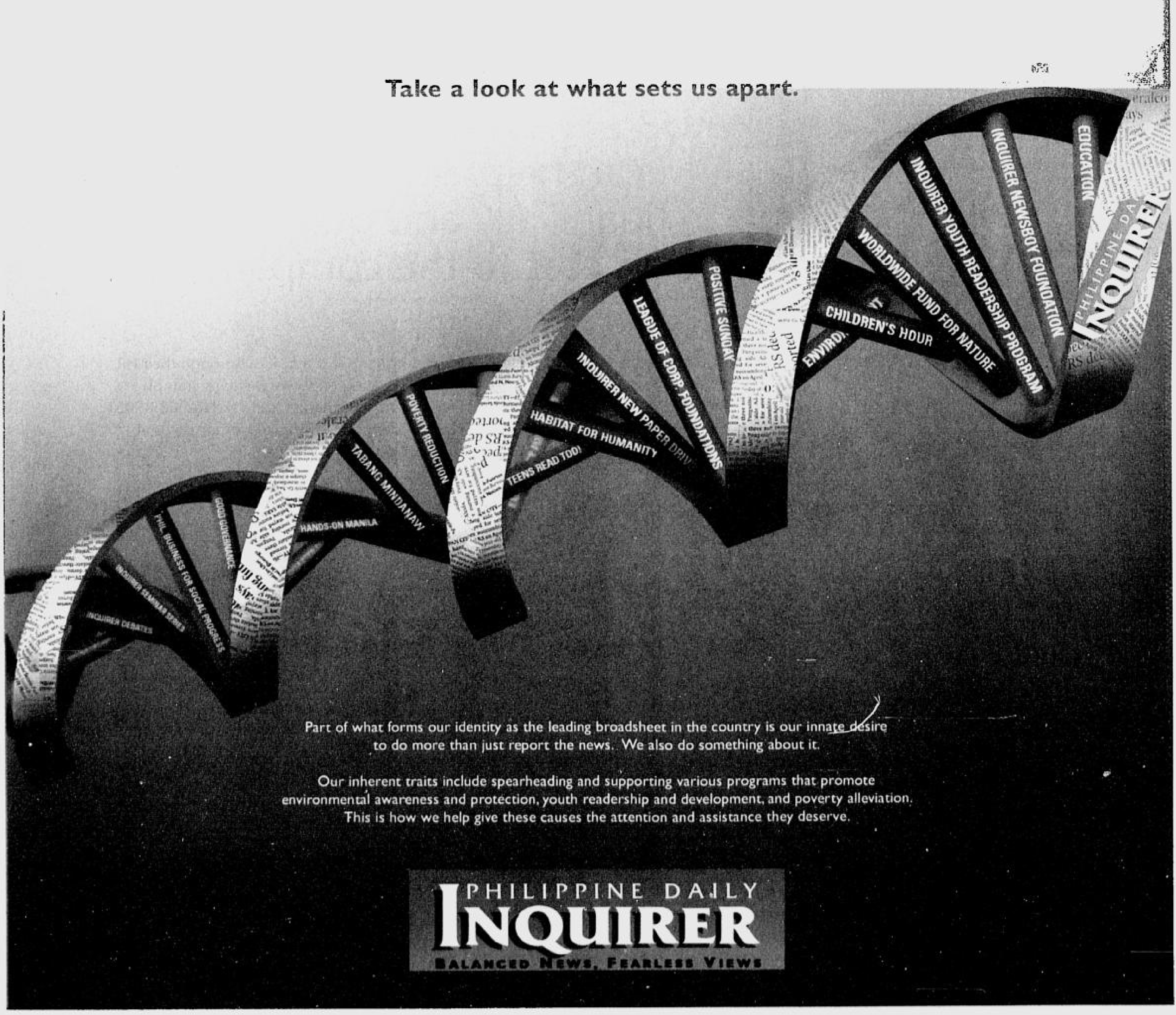

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Resolve the root ...

From page B2-1

What about the young officers, majors and those lower in rank, who had excellent service records? If they are not principals in the coup, they should be offered an amnesty program.

That is, they must first renounce all coups, refuse to be recruited into future revolts, and agree to resign from the AFP. For 2 or 3 years they perform some kind of public service approved by the government. After that period they are reinstated to the Armed Forces with no loss in seniority.

There are enlisted men who are not promoted because they are suspected of being sympathetic to the coup plotters. Others are stalled because their performance doesn't quite make the grade. These officers are more vulnerable to the coup temptation. The government should consider an early retirement program for this set.

The move will "give reasonable benefits to those who cannot meet the rigid requirements of a smaller officer corps," says the Davide Commission. It will also "provide an exit opportunity to those who believe that their careers have been impaired by their associations."

That way, officers can leave the AFP without stigma and work in the civilian sector. However, if the retired soldiers are found guilty of crimes against national security, they will be liable to return all their benefits.

Public resolve is needed in enforcing these steps. The Davide Commission Report says, "If a coup d'état starts in the minds of men, then it is the collective will of a unified people that can prevent and overcome it. The people must choose democracy."

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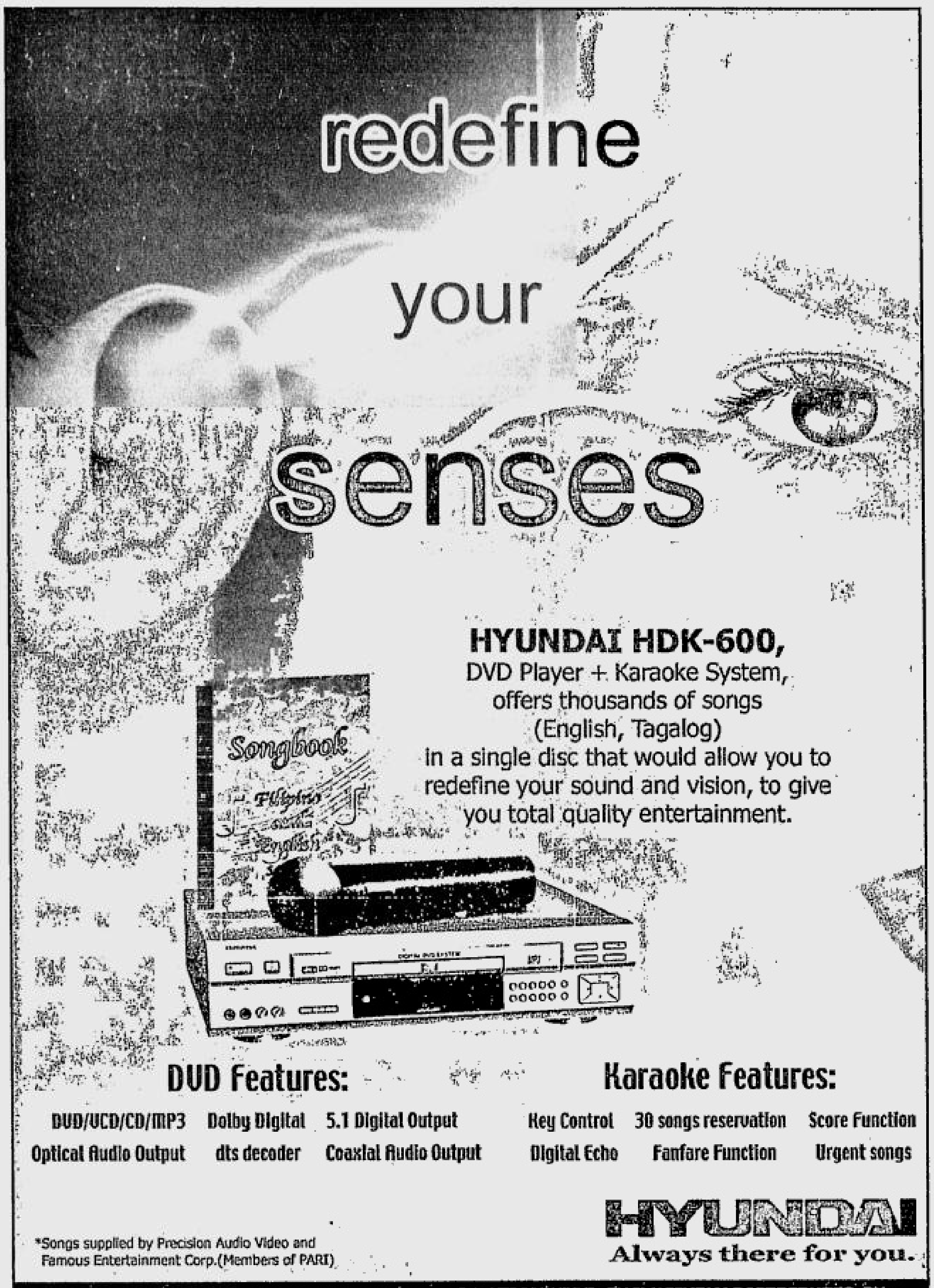
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Study reveals consumer attitudes after 9/11 trag

ON THURSDAY, Aug. 14, the lights went out in New York City. Streams of pedestrians evacuated buildings through darkened stairways and proceeded up the middle of busy avenues on foot, headed home.

Bewildered citizens looked for an explanation. Neighbor talked to neighbor in the absence of electronics. Rumors flew.

For the first few hours, the question hovering over the island was an obvious one for New Yorkers: "Was this an act of terrorism? Are they at it again?" The scenario was too eerily reminiscent of another dark day two years ago.

While the media were quick to squelch such speculation, the people were skeptical. This seemed to be the punctuation mark so many had been waiting for to the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001.

In some ways, it seemed New Yorkers were hoping that it was a terrorist act. For this would at least give us some relief from the uncertainty we had been suffering the last two years. At least we'd know what was "next."

But we also felt relief in the fact that once again the city was functioning through an emergency. Once again, people were coming together. Again, the city's phone lines were being tied up by loved ones trying to reach each other with the simple question: "Are you all right?"

In the aftermath of the blackout, we heard about the economic damage to the city. We heard little about the emotions that were absolutely palpable on the street.

This is the New Normal in the US and beyond. Immediately after Sept. 11, Euro RSCG's first "New Times, New Tools: American Monitor" survey defined the New Normal.

Two years later, it continues to monitor how this atmosphere of uncertainty has evolved. Not surprisingly, the New Normal includes a focus on reflection, introspection and community—a frustrating reality for those who would like to see Americans introspecting less and looking outward more.

But the New Normal is not confined to the United States. On the contrary, it is a global phenomenon. When the power went out in London at the end of August, the reaction in the city was strik-

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New ideas to oust old mindsets

From page B2-2

liath. In Collins' book, "Good To Great," he found that the 11 firms that made the cut to "great" companies all had what he called a "hedgehog" concept; something David practiced as well. What is the Hedgehog Concept?

"David and The Hedgehog Concept"

The hedgehog concept is a perfect example of ousting an old mindset. Hedgehog concept is simply identifying the "one big thing" they do well, sticking to it, and discarding everything unrelated to it. These companies simply asked themselves what they can be the best at in the world. They reduce all their efforts to this simple principle that unifies and guides everything they do.

A company doing its core business profitably for decades does not mean it can be the best at it. In fact, these companies had a stop doing "the wrong things list." Before David faced Goliath, he was offered to use the armor of the king. But to David, that was old mindset.

Armor was what everybody used in battle. David only used some rocks he picked up along the way. But David stuck to the one big thing he was best at, the sling shot. That was David's hedgehog concept. David discarded the armor as this was not related to his hedgehog idea.

"Connecting with people leadership"

In Collins' book, "Good To Great" "It is humility that is the common thread in the connecting with people leadership." He said that Level 5 leaders embody a paradoxical mix of personal humility and professional will."

Many executives expand this mindset to the "what I share with others can make a difference." These executives do not just believe in themselves but in the people around them as well.

There are two basic differences in high horse leadership" "from the connecting with people leadership." The former is typically from the leaders perspective. The latter is positive and the leader sees things from the other persons point of view.

As it takes effort to connect with people, the second basic difference is the former is a mindset of "If they want something from me they have to come to me." The latter style is the leader is the one that initiates the connection with the people. Otherwise, most likely no connection will be made.

"Together we can make a big difference"

There are different buttons to push that make people respond. Hence, it becomes necessary to understand the motivation of people. This means finding out the key to the lives of others by uncovering what is important to them—what makes them sing, cry, what's in their heart.

When there is no intention to impress anyone, this often comes across as "communicating to others from the heart." And this generally leads to "together we can make a difference." Mother Theresa said, "I can do what you cannot do, you can do what I cannot do. Together we can do great things!"

"Be yourself leadership. Share experiences with people"

Leaders find that if they are to effectively connect with people, a change in leadership style must take place, to a 'Be yourself leadership. Share experiences with people.' Opening ourselves and experiencing some life together tears down walls and instead builds bridges.

Lastly, these leaders continuously work at moving the connection forward to a deeper level. They know a strong connection with the people is necessary for the people to be able to share their hopes and dreams and join them on their journey to their vision. Although it may seem like a lot of work, the reward is worth it: to see the willingness of the people to follow the leader into something new for the sake of something great.

Conclusion

To connect with people, we need to oust old mindsets. We can connect with people and lead them only if we value them.

What should you expect from this year's MAP CEO Conference? Well, you must come expecting to hear messages that will take you to higher levels in life. The speakers will challenge us to reach further and make a difference in this world. There will be many insights that will be shared which will surely bring new revelation and opportunity to us for the future. (*The author is chair of Sharexchange Brokers and Managing Consultant of Six Sigma Consulting Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph.*)

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edy

ingly similar to the reaction in Manhattan.

Mayor Ken Livingston was quick to assure the public that it was not an act of terrorism, though he himself admitted on Sky News that this had been his first fear. In Jakarta, the Middle East, Moscow and elsewhere, this New Normal is now a part of life.

So what is our role in this new reality? Euro RSCG has come out with a study on marketers' responsibility to recognize that things are different and to find ways to understand how the differences affect our clients and their customers.

This study is a part of Euro RSCG's commitment to knowing what's important to know, to building consumer insights that clients could act upon and to nurture a global community within Euro RSCG where respect is the cost of entry and diversity of opinion is welcomed and valued.

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People, Events & Products

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Globe marks fiestas with Great Islands Celebrations

GLOBE Telecom whips up a Pinoy-centric promo caravan in partnership with Islands Souvenirs. Dubbed Great Islands Celebrations, it's a regional offer timed during key fiestas and Globe Telecom Business Center (GTBC) openings in various locations.

Great Island Celebrations runs simultaneously until Sept. 15 in Baguio (Charter Day) and

General Santos (Tuna Festival). Those who will subscribe to a new G-Plan at any GTBC in these cities get a specially designed Great Islands Celebrations T-shirt while every purchase of a Sony Ericsson T100 prepaid phone kit entitles them to a free cap.

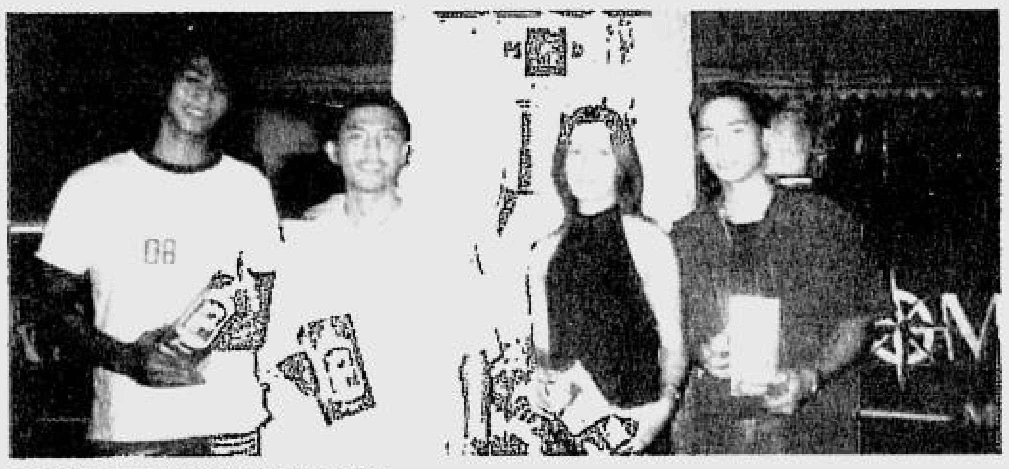
Patty Forbes, Globe Telecom Retail Marketing senior manager, says Great Islands Celebrations pays tribute to the unique color and flavor of the numerous fiestas and beautiful local areas in the Philippines. "We wanted to put the spotlight on the different regions with a campaign that captures what is interesting and enjoyable about these islands." Adds Vince Ong, Vismin regional head: "The creative local flavor aligns with Globe's regional expansion plans in fully tapping key provincial markets".

Globe Telecom senior manager for Prepaid Acquisitions, Ailene Averion, notes how Globe Telecom is continually reaching out to subscribers in regional areas through fiestas and events, like the ever-popular Intensity G campaigns. "Great Islands Celebrations is an ideal complement to Intensity G. It certainly adds to the excitement, plus offers better value for consumers as we visit more areas across the country."

Great Islands Celebrations kicks off the opening of GTBC Bataan where the promo will run from Sept. 16 to 30.

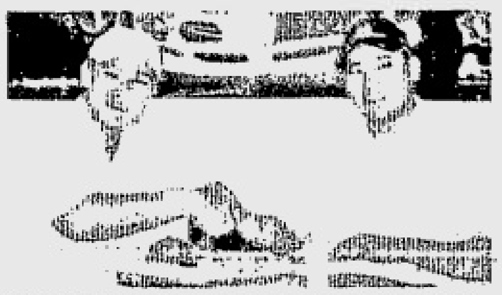
Swing by the nearest GTBC to find out when Great Islands Celebrations hits your area.

SHOWN, from left, are Islands Souvenirs president Jay Aldeguer, Islands Souvenirs vice president for marketing Lyndon Angan, Globe Telecom retail marketing head Raya Roa-Gonzalez, Globe Telecom regional head-VisMin Vince Ong, and Globe Telecom regional head-South Luzon Blue Avelino.



CAMPUS PARTY ON TOUR

THE GSM Blue Team was spotted recently at The Fort Square in Fort Bonifacio Global City as it partied all night with the Junior Marketing Executives of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, one of the 15 universities included on it's Campus Party on Tour event. It was a night filled with heart-thumping music as the live band set the mood, making students groove and grind to endless party music. The event was livened up with loads of prizes and surprises like caps, shirts, jackets and gift packs from GSM Blue. Bottomless Blue Lagoon drinks were served to partygoers. The GSM Blue Campus Party on Tour is also made possible by Unilever Philippines, makers of Sunsilk and Close-Up, Extraderm from Splash, Compass Internet, and The Philippine Daily Inquirer. If you want the next party to be in your school, call Ad Staunch Communication Network at 550-1732 Shown are the junior marketing executives of PUP, the newest members of GSM Tropang Blue.



LICENSING AGREEMENT

In response to the clamor of a growing import tuning market, R2 Auto Centrum, a soon-to-open performance shop, recently inked a licensing agreement with A-Toy Paint and Body Kits. Shown during the formal signing of the agreement are Victor Llave (left), owner of A-Toy Paint and Body Kits and Roderick Villanueva, proprietor of R2 Auto Centrum. R2 Auto Centrum is the licensed dealer of A-Toy Paint and Body Kits to cater to the southern border of Metro Manila. Located along Km 16, West Service Road, South Superhighway, R2 Auto Centrum offers automotive restoration, PPG oven-baked painting, and a wide array of bolt-on body kits for any car brand. For R2 automotive service inquiries, call 824-6480.

Globelines treats subscribers to extra perks, special benefits

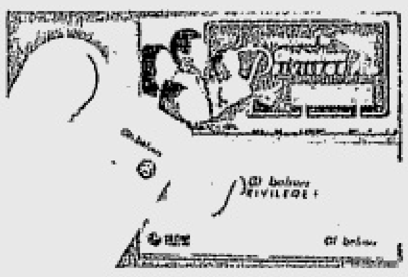
GLOBELINES is again giving its post-paid residential subscribers in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao a big lifestyle treat with its Globelines Privilege Plus program.

At no additional cost to subscribers, Globelines, through its Globelines Privilege Plus program, has mailed out Globelines Privilege Plus booklets to its loyal residential subscribers nationwide. Each booklet contains an assortment of privilege-packed coupons, which subscribers can avail themselves of in selected major establishments.

The exciting perks available through the Globelines Privilege Plus coupons are good for discounts of as much as 50 percent, while for other partner-establishments, these are exchangeable for special offers or services.

The establishments that partnered with Globelines for its Globelines Privilege Plus program include leading salons, restaurants, retail shops, boutiques, travel destinations and recreation spots.

Over 57 different establishments found in various locations nationwide are featured in the current set of Globelines Privilege Plus coupons, and coupon-holders have until Dec. 31 to avail themselves of the various perks, freebies and benefits offered.



Globelines Privilege Plus is a continuing program so Globelines subscribers can expect more similar offerings to come.

New MBA program offered at DLSU-GSB

MEMBERS of the academe and prominent figures in Philippine sports gave their all-out support during the recent launching of the MBA in Sports and Recreation Management at the De La Salle University Professional Schools Inc. Graduate School of Business (DLSU PSI-GSB).

A pet project of DLSU PSI-GSB Dean Philip Ella Juico, the new MBA program underscores the theories and principles of competitive sports and its relation to leadership, management and value formation in the workplace.

"Every year, millions of pesos are allocated to the country's sports sector. That's why we thought of offering a course that will equip managers with the skills and knowledge to help propel Philippine sports to greater heights by employing innovative tried and time-tested management principles," said Juico, who is a former Philippine Sports Commission chair.

Juico further stated that the MBA in Sports and Recreation Management is ideal for those who aspire to build a career in sports development, staging of sporting activities as well as those engaged in sporting goods retail and distribution. The program shall include four electives, namely Sports, Society and Strategic Management; Managing the Corporate Wellness Program; Sports Marketing; and Staging of Sporting Events.

Also present at the launch were guest of honor Celso Dayrit, president of the Philippine Olympic Committee; Francisco Del Rosario, executive vice president of DLSU PSI; Roberto Claudio of Toby's Sports; Emmet Penson of Team Ventures; former Olympian-turned TV host Akiko Thomson; Raymond Atendido; Freddy Herrera of Gatorade; Philippine Basketball Association talent manager Danny Espiritu; one of the country's top cagers Kenneth Duremdes; shipping executive and DLSU men's basketball team manager Terry Capistrano; Sports Medicine's Dr. George Canlas; and Dr. Bee Giok Tan.

"We at the Philippine Olympic Committee welcome the introduction of the MBA in Sports and Recreation Management," said Dayrit. "The sports sector has always had a specific training and guidelines for sports officials and athletes but there has never been a formal course for managers who will run the business aspect of sports. I personally commend DLSU PSI-GSB, under the stewardship of its Dean Philip Juico, for coming up with such a remarkable course that hopefully will mark a major turning point in sports development in our country."

The program is open for enrollment. Program director is professor Rene Concepcion, who was recently named as national coach for the Philippine swimming team to the 2003 Southeast Asian Games to be held in Vietnam. For more information, call Concepcion at 524-4611 local 351, or 523-4295.

'Mother of all photo trade fairs'

WHAT a difference a few years makes. In 1995, the first photo exhibit and trade fair organized by the Association of Photo Studios of the Philippines (Apsop) was staged at the Glorietta Activity Center as its venue. Digital imaging was a new frontier and was beyond the reach of the average person's pockets, and, owing to the limited access to computer knowhows, people were just too scared to learn about the great and unlimited possibilities of turning photo images into something that only a lack of imagination cannot pursue.

For five days in September, another photographic exhibit will afford the general public to see for themselves the latest in photography products and techniques, accessories and the serious and the not-too-nerdy computer appurtenances to get those images printed in photo-perfect sharpness and with such ease that anyone does not need to be an Einstein to do that. To people who are still clueless as to how those big billboards and giant posters are made, this is the chance to experience the thrill of viewing prints as they are processed by means of the latest in large print format techniques.

All roads lead to Harrison Plaza from Sept. 26 to 30 for Apsop's biggest photo exposition called Photo and Digital Expo 2003. The trade fair will enable all major photo distributors showcase new products and technology relating to large format prints, photo studio equipments, accessories and supplies.

There are three main events. The first is the Miss Photography Girl Philippines 2003, which is open to all Filipinas from ages 18 to 21. The winner will act as a Philippine tourism booster as she goes on photo sessions that Apsop members all over the country conduct during the association's regular outreach and teach-in programs. All photographers, regardless of their proficiency level, are invited to participate in an on-the-spot photo contest featuring the beauty pageant candidates.

The second big event is Kodak's Search for the Most Outstanding Portrait Photographer 2003. The contest is open to amateur and professional photographers and is aimed at encouraging people to sit for a portrait photographer for a more polished and at-one's-best photographic impression. The third event is the Search for the Most Outstanding Wedding Photographer 2003, which is also open to all amateur and professional photographers. It is co-sponsored by Pentax and Sanly Corp, which distributes Solaris Films in the Philippines.

More than ever, Apsop, with Benjie Rivera as president, has been helping broaden the appeal of photography to a larger number of photo enthusiasts through this kind of photo expo by putting a new spin on the dynamics of photography to a greater extent.

Friends of Apsop that help make the project possible include Kodak Professional, Solaris Films, Canon, Island Multi Industrial Sales, Harrison Plaza, Manila Bulletin, ABS-CBN, NBN Tele-Dyaryo, Daylite, Sunstar Daily, Philippines Free Pree, Kameraworld, and Lights and Camera, an Apsop publication and the country's only magazine entirely devoted to photography.

Interested parties can call the Apsop secretariat through Dhang Cruz or Jinky Rivera at 887-4151, or e-mail lnc_apsop@edsamail.com.ph, or drop by the Apsop secretariat office at 5000 Arnaiz Avenue, Makati.

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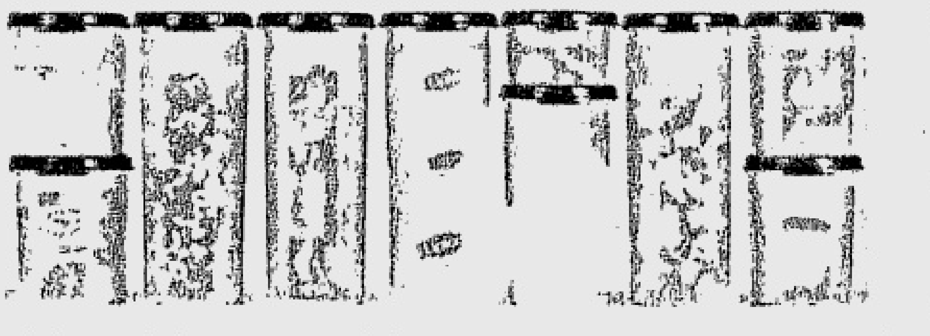


TUPPERWARE Philippines, one of the world's best-known manufacturers of contemporary products in food storage, preparation, cooking and serving with lifetime guarantee, presents its latest innovative product with the Tupperware Space Savers collection that allows you to make the most of your cupboard space.

Uniquely designed with see-through windows for quick quantity and content check for stored staples, stackable to maximize storage space and virtually airtight seals that lock in the freshness of food, it also comes in a variety of shapes and sizes that work together to maximize storage space. And because Tupperware products are made to last a lifetime, you don't have to worry about maintenance and care.

For more information on all Tupperware products or careers, see your nearest distributor or call 888-5521. For more comments, e-mail philmktng@tupperware.com or write to Tupperware Philippines premier direct-selling with mailing address at PO Box 1331, Makati Central Post Office 1253, Makati City.

Microsoft seminar in Cebu

PERFORMANCE Advantage Systems International (Pasi), an authorized Microsoft-Navision Solution Center, will participate in the Realizing your Potential with Microsoft Business Solutions seminar, scheduled from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 18, Cebu City Sports Club. During the event, Pasi will help enlighten corporate decision-makers and IT people on how Microsoft Navision Attain can help them further improve running their businesses. Microsoft Navision Attain, an integrated business software solutions for mid-sized companies, can replace as much or as little of companies' existing business systems as necessary from application areas for financial management, manufacturing, distribution, customer relationship management, and e-business. For the end-user company, it means it only pays for the functionalities it needs. For inquiries, call Pasi at 889-60-20 to 23.

Bits Clips

CFIP 3Q meeting

CONCURRENT with the Furniture Week on the third week of September, the Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines is celebrating its 3rd Quarter General Membership Meeting on Sept. 17, 5:30 to 9 p.m. at Dencio's Bar & Grill, The Fort, Global City. A guest speaker from the BIR will talk on tax issues recently implemented that would have relevant effects on the furniture business. Other activities will be the election to three vacant seats on the Board allocated for Chapter Members (proxy form required if not attending election), and the induction of new CFIP members. An overnight stay in Tagaytay and a round trip ticket to any domestic destination will be raffled off. A P250 fee will be collected at the venue. Call the national secretariat at 632-9007, 631-2834, 637-2742 and look for Racquel Gorospe or Jing Bañaga.

UST, PSBA grads pass CPM exams

GRADUATES of the University of Santo Tomas and Philippine School of Business Administration recently passed the qualifying examinations for Certified Professional Marketer (Asia-Pacific) given by the Singapore-based Asia Pacific Marketing Federation (APMF). They are Denis A. Gutierrez, who graduated with a Master of Science in Advertising degree from UST, and John Chan who obtained his Doctor in Business Administration degree from PSBA. The CPM is the formal endorsement of professional status for professionals who have already attained a competent level of marketing in the Asia Pacific region. The next (18th) CPM qualifying examinations will be held in Manila from Sept. 15 to 24. For more information on the CPM, visit the website of the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) at www.pma.philonline.com.

Linggo ng Bulacan ongoing

THE PROVINCE of Bulacan is celebrating Bulacan Week 2003, a celebration of arts, culture, history and tradition, until today, Sept. 15, and coincides with the 105th anniversary of the Malolos Congress. With the theme "Pamana ng Kalinangan at Kasaysayan, Pamukaw Sigla sa Maunlad na Kabuhayan," the festival showcases Bulacan's rich culture and the diverse talents of Bulakenos. The celebration kicked off Sept. 8 simultaneously in Bulacan's 22 towns and two cities. Throughout the week, art exhibits, trade fairs and competitions were mounted to showcase Bulakenos' skill and artistry. Other trade fairs, a job fair, and seminars were held, demonstrating Bulacan's push for economic development. The works of famed artists Jose Joya and Malang are on exhibit at the Barasoain Church.

SM grand sale Sept. 19

THE BIG 3-day simultaneous sale events at SM City Sta. Mesa and SM Supercenter Sucat are slated for Sept. 19, 20 and 21. The 3-day sale events offer up to 50-percent markdowns on great selections mallwide. SM Supermallers in Sta. Mesa and SM Supercenter Sucat will definitely go wild over terrific savings offered by participating tenants in these two malls. Choice buys and great deals include groceries, apparel, toys, infant essentials and home furnishings. Mall hours are from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Could you please explain a formal table setting, and which utensils I should use as well as glasses?

GOODNESS GRACES

Lia S. Bernardo

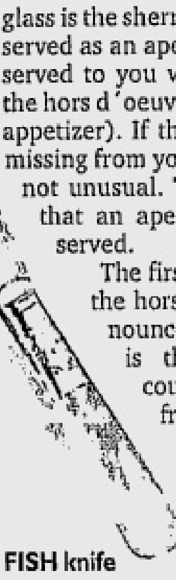
BELOW is an example of a formal dinner setting; most often the cup and saucer will not be present when you first sit at the table. However, when at a formal reception, a wedding for example, the cup and saucer will already be present.

Place cards, if present, will be found at the top most part of your place setting. It will indicate where your hostess wants you to be seated. It is considered extremely rude to move place cards around.

Forks are found on the left and spoons and knives are on your right. They are arranged based on the order of use. The first utensils you will use are those furthest away from your plate, working your way inwards, towards your plate.

Let's start with the bread and butter plate. This is always on your left side. Always remember that your bread and butter are to your left. Bread is served before dinner, with soup and with your entrée or main course. Remember that bread is always broken then buttered and then eaten. Do not slice the bread with the butter knife. Break the bread with your fingers into a bite size piece and use the butter knife to spread the butter. Most often you see people slice the bread in half and butter it and make a little sandwich, this is not done. Bread should not be dunked into your soup nor used as a sponge to soak up gravies or sauces.

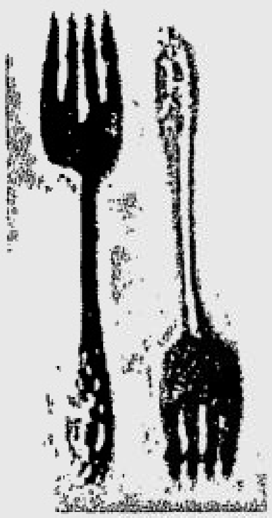
Your glasses are to your right. The water goblet is the largest of the glasses and water will be served throughout the meal. If you do not drink alcoholic beverages please do not turn your glasses over. Simply tell the waiter not to pour wine and he should remove the glasses.



FISH knife

In the illustration, the smallest glass is the sherry glass. Sherry is served as an aperitif and may be served to you with the soup or the hors d 'oeuvres (first course/ appetizer). If the sherry glass is missing from your setting, this is not unusual. This only means that an aperitif will not be served.

The first course is called the hors d' oeuvres, pronounced *or-dervs*. This is the appetizer. It could be anything from oysters in a half shell, smoked salmon, pâté de foie gras, to name a few. What is important to remember is that if the hors d' oeuvre is to be eaten with just a fork, say for example, shrimp cocktail, then the fork will be placed on the right hand side of your table setting. The reason being is that you will use your right hand to hold the fork while eating.



FISH fork

If the hors d' oeuvre is supposed to be eaten with a fork and knife then the fork will be on the furthest left hand side of your setting while the knife will be on the furthest right hand side of your setting.

If you are left-handed, pick up the right-hand side utensils and transfer to your left hand as needed. Do not systematically rearrange the utensils all at once as soon as you are seated.

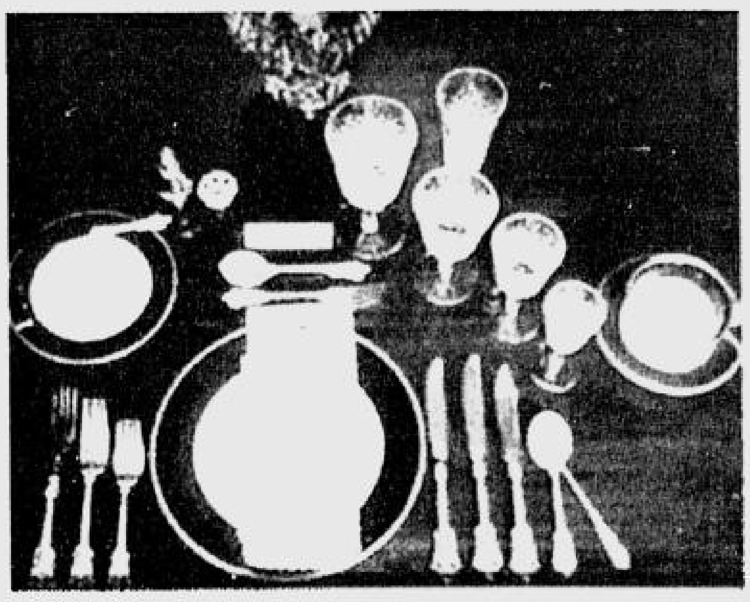
Soup will be served after the hors d' oeuvre course. However, if hors d'oeuvres are not served then soup will be served first. The waiter may either serve soup to you from a tureen or the soup may already be placed on the bowl. Remember, if a waiter is serving you, you are always served on your left hand side.

Soup is taken with a soupspoon which is found on your right. Soup is always taken away from you. Take the soup from the sides of the spoon. Do not put the oversized spoon directly into your mouth. The reason the spoon is oversized is to allow the soup to cool down before you take it. Do not stir your soup in order to cool it down, nor should you break pieces of bread and put it on your soup. Slurping is definitely considered bad manners.

When you are done, do not leave your spoon on the bowl, leave it on the side of the bowl on the plate. This will signal the waiter that you are done and that the soup bowl and the plate it is on, should be removed.

To be continued

(E-mail feedback and questions to etiquetteconsultants@hotmail.com)



FORMAL dinner setting

Knowing how to cook a venture in a bowl

VENTURING into the food sector is one of the options that aspiring and seasoned entrepreneurs never fail to consider. For one, there seems to be no saturation of the market as Filipinos generally love to eat. Pinoys' penchant for food explains the burgeoning restaurants and other dining hubs from small to large scale.

A relative newcomer is Superbowl of China, with five branches in the metropolis. The first branch opened in SM Megamall in 2001. This was followed by another along Jupiter Street in Makati. In 2002, Superbowl opened in Glorietta 4 and Big Buddha in Greenbelt 3. The newest is the Festival Supermall branch in Alabang.

According to Richmond Yang, managing director and partner operator for Superbowl of China, construction for the SM City North Edsa branch is ongoing and will open in December.

Superbowl of China is not your typical Chinese restaurant. It projects an image of modernity in casual dining. Its menu offers a wide array of Oriental cuisine. Most of its cuisine are rice-based, which makes it appealing to the customers.

"We change menu every other six months to provide our customers with a variety of great-tasting food choices," explained Yang who is in his early '30s. "We know what the dining public wants because we are sensitive in knowing their food preferences," he adds.

Super Bowl
of CHIN

RICHMOND Yang with EastWest Bank's Nedi de los Reyes

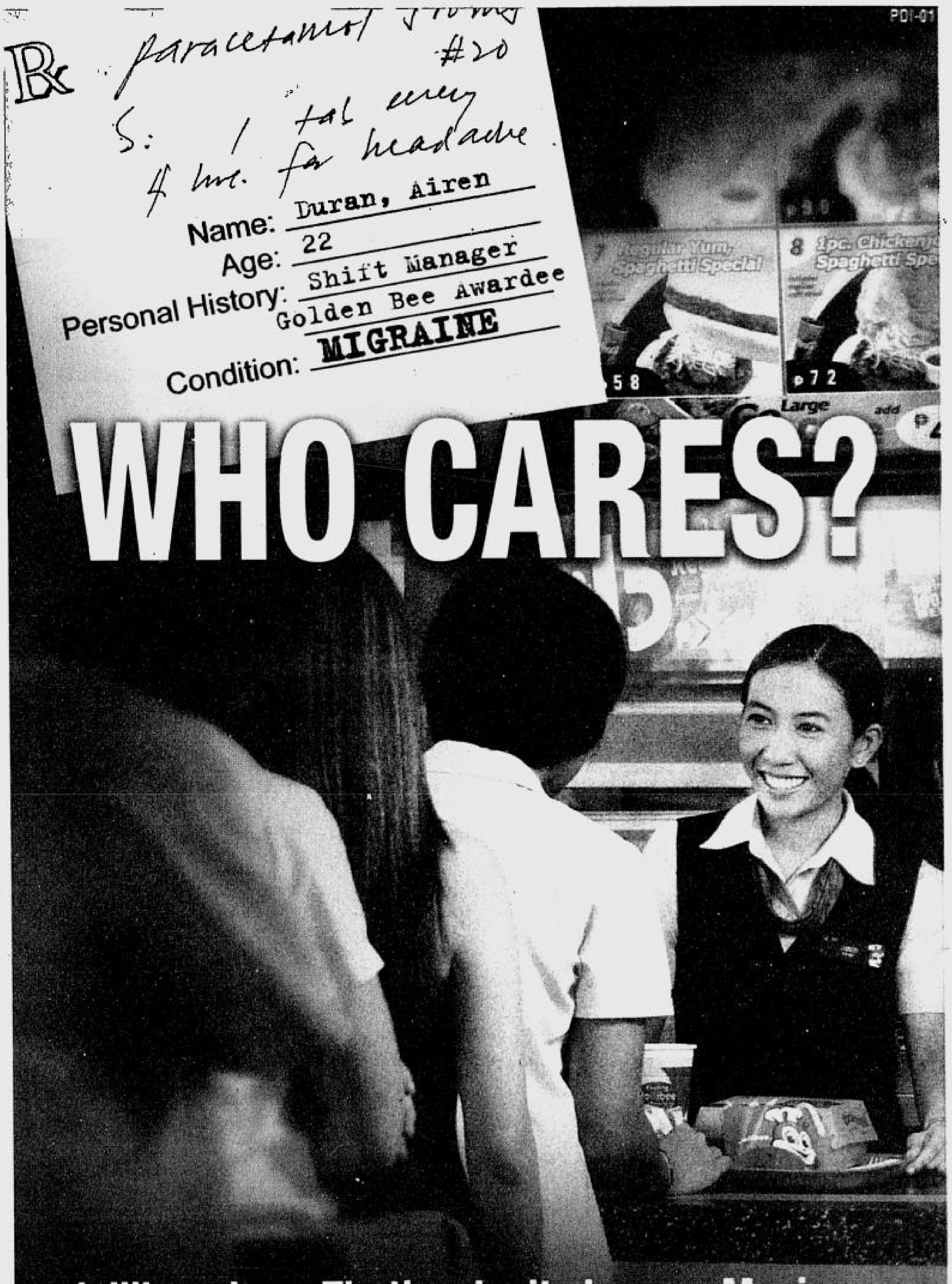
Aside from the ambience and choice of food, Superbowl's strength is embedded in the expertise of its management in the food business. "Basically, we started out in the restaurant business in 1996 when we put up Chili's Grill and Bar, a part of the holdings of the company which operates Superbowl of China," said Yang. Superbowl is operated by Big Buddha Restaurant Inc., an affiliate company of Am-Phil Food Concepts Inc., which runs the famous Chili's.

Superbowl also attributes its success to its people. "We take care of our staff well. We give them compensations higher than the ongoing industry rates, aside from the stability and security that we provide them," explained Yang.

To ensure that their employees receive their salaries on time and accurately, Superbowl acquired the PayrollAssist program of EastWest Bank, one of the fastest growing full-service commercial banks in the country. EastWest Bank's Payroll Assist is an automated payroll preparation, payment and crediting facility using a proprietary software which provides a complete solution to Superbowl's payroll requirements.

Another program which Superbowl procured to aid its operations is EastWest Bank's Collect@Site facility, a safe and efficient way to transport cash and check deposits, whereby the Bank sends an armored car to Superbowl to pick up its cash or check deposits. "This service lessens the security risk of sending out our staff to personally deposit funds to the bank. Being in the restaurant business, it is essential that the flow of money from customers to the bank is not interrupted because of security concerns," said Yang who is proud of his company's eye for innovative solutions.

Superbowl of China is moving towards franchising. Around 40 applicants already expressed their interest in getting a franchise. Yang says it will formally open its doors to franchising by first quarter of 2004.



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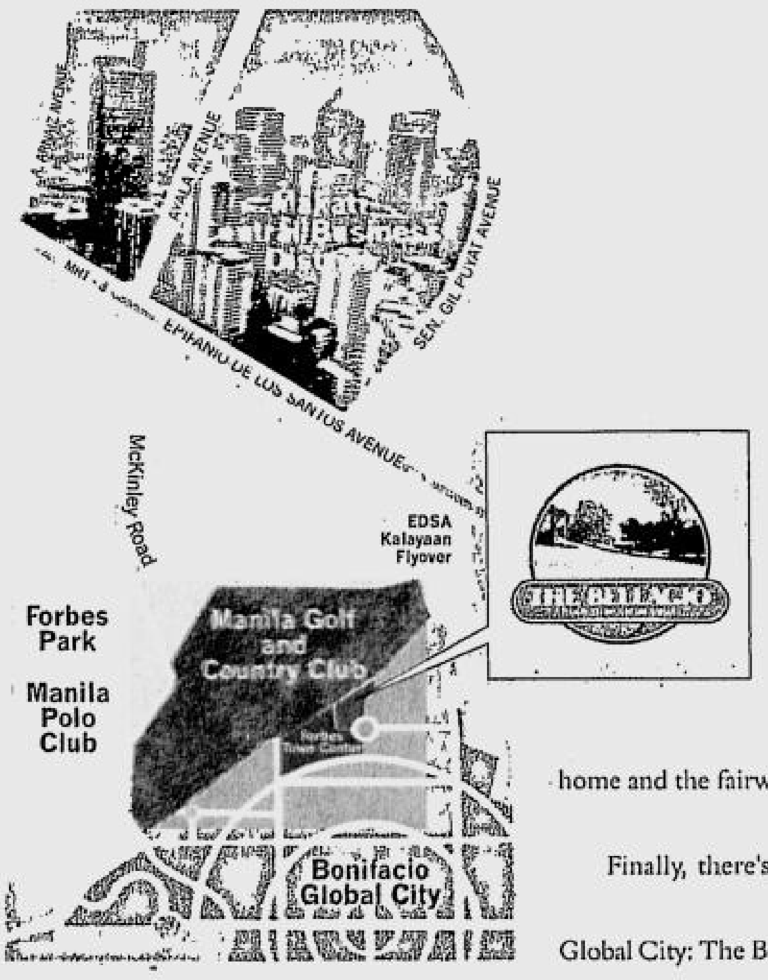
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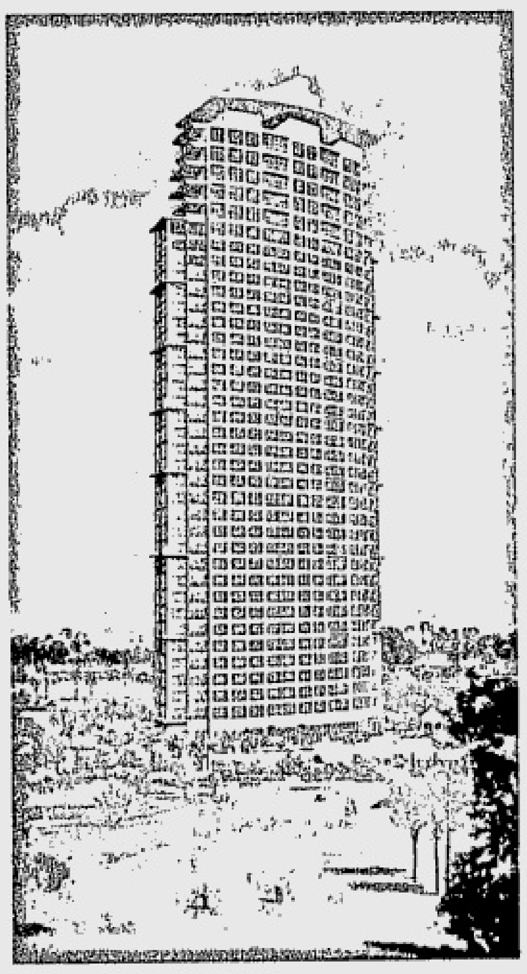

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Editor Louie C. Camino

DINA ratchets up the class act a notch too high when she signed up for the Jet Jeturian film.

Dina in, Diana out

Ms D's presence makes Seiko film too classy for Ms Z

DIANA is not left holding an empty bag.

By Nini Valera

SEIKO Films producer Robbie Tan yanked out sexpot Diana Zubiri from the outfit's entry in the Metro Manila Film Festival, because she was no longer up to the higher level that the movie had become after Dina Bonnevie joined the cast.

Dina replaced Rosanna Roces, who had turned down the role because of her supposed pregnancy.

But Diana was not left holding an empty bag. Robbie said he gave the starlet another project, "Liberated," directed by Mac Alejandre.

"Dina and Cherry Pie (Picache, who replaced Rufa Mae Quinto) are classy actresses and both are *mestiza*," said Robbie. "They are two of the best actresses in the industry. I don't think Diana can compete with the two when it comes to acting."

Replacing Diana is newcomer Francine Prieto, whose *mestiza* beauty Robbie is banking on to be consistent with the sleekness of the movie.

After a total revamp of the cast, the still untitled movie has evolved into an award-driven film, according to Robbie.

"That was how my director, Jet Jeturian, described his film," Robbie said.

The producer himself described the movie as a "Bridget Jones" meets "Sex in the City."

"The three main characters want to get married already," he explained. "So by hook or by crook, they must get the man in their lives to marry them. Cherry-Pie has been dumped by her men because she's fat, so she resorted to cyber sex. Her immediate goal is to have liposuction to improve her sex life."

Dina's role is the most challenging, according to Robbie, "that's why she accepted it right away. She plays a woman who's in her late 30s but is still very desirable to men. She used to be promiscuous, until she fell in love with a married man with children, whose marriage is being annulled. She ends up paying for the annulment."

Robbie said this is Dina's sexiest role yet and compares it to the art house film, Giuseppi Tornatore's "Malena."

Francine's part mirrors the changing times and attitudes of women. "She has two lovers and gets pregnant, but she doesn't know who the father is," Robbie said. "She chooses to marry the richer man. Isn't that what most women would do now, marry for security?"

The movie also avoids the usual twists and turns of the soap, he said. It's edgy, but very sleek.

To achieve this, Robbie has hired people from the advertising industry to be on the production staff. This is also one way of expanding the talent pool of the industry, which Robbie said had sunk to the depths of tackiness.

"To me, it's important to give the audience a choice," he said. "The Pinoy likes a good story. Bold is no longer a trend. A movie could be bold, but it must also have a story for it to sell."

Competition from Hollywood has also been giving the local industry a beating at the tills.

"Look at 'Finding Nemo,' it's everywhere. The advertising budget is huge. How can you compete with Hollywood productions?"

Moviegoers, he observed, would rather wait to watch a movie on cable channels. "They would instead spend their money on cell cards," he said.

The maker of sex goddesses Cristina Gonzales, Gretchen Baretto, Rita Avila and Rosanna Roces, Robbie is still bent on discovering the next movie siren.

He hopes she would be Francine and her vehicle would be Seiko's filmfest entry.

Until then, Robbie, 53, will continue the search for the ultimate Filipino movie.

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Death of comic Ritter 'left a tear in world's heart'

RITTER

"IT'S LIKE there is a big tear in the world's heart," actor Henry Winkler on Friday said of his friend Jonn Ritter who passed away Thursday at 54.

Ritter's youngest child, Stella, turned 5 the day he died. Ritter would have turned 55 next Wednesday.

Ritter became ill Thursday while working on a series for ABC television and underwent surgery at Providence St. Joseph Medical Center in Burbank for a tear in his aorta, a rare medical condition.

He died shortly after 10 p.m. Thursday, publicist Lisa Kasteler said.

The son of Tex Ritter, a Western film star and country musician, Ritter was an effortless funnyman who—given the chance—could handle drama as well. Friends recalled him as loving and buoyant.

Ritter was a master of sitcom silliness who ruled TV comedy with "Three's Company, which aired from 1977-84.

"I was the class clown, but I was also student body president in high school," he told The Associated Press in a 1992 interview. "I had my serious side—I idolized Bobby Kennedy, he was my role model. But so was Jerry Lewis."

He received an Emmy, Golden Globe and other awards for his "Three's Company" role and was honored by the Los Angeles Music Center in June with a lifetime achievement award.

Ritter appeared in more than 50 plays in the United States. He had a memorable turn in Billy Bob Thornton's 1996 film "Sling Blade."

Ritter won popularity among independent film directors in recent years and appeared in "Tadpole" in 2002 and the new feature "Manhood."

Ritter was married from 1977 to 1996 to Nancy Morgan, the mother of his three oldest children. He married actress Amy Yasbeck in 1999. In addition to son Jason and daughter Stella, he is survived by two other children, Carly and Tyler. *AP*

Country music's Cash dies at 71

CASH

JOHNNY Cash, a towering musical figure whose rough, unsteady voice championed the downtrodden and reached across generations with songs like "Ring of Fire," "I Walk the Line" and "Folsom Prison Blues," has died. He was 71.

Cash, known as "The Man in Black," died early Friday in Baptist Hospital of complications from diabetes that resulted in respiratory failure, said his manager, Lou Robin. In his songs, Cash crafted a persona as a dignified, resilient voice for the common man—but there was always a dark edge.

One of the most haunting passages in popular music comes from his 1956 "Folsom Prison Blues:" "I shot a man in Reno, just to watch him die."

His deeply lined face fits well with his voice, which was limited in range but used to great effect to sing about prisoners, heartaches and tales of everyday life.

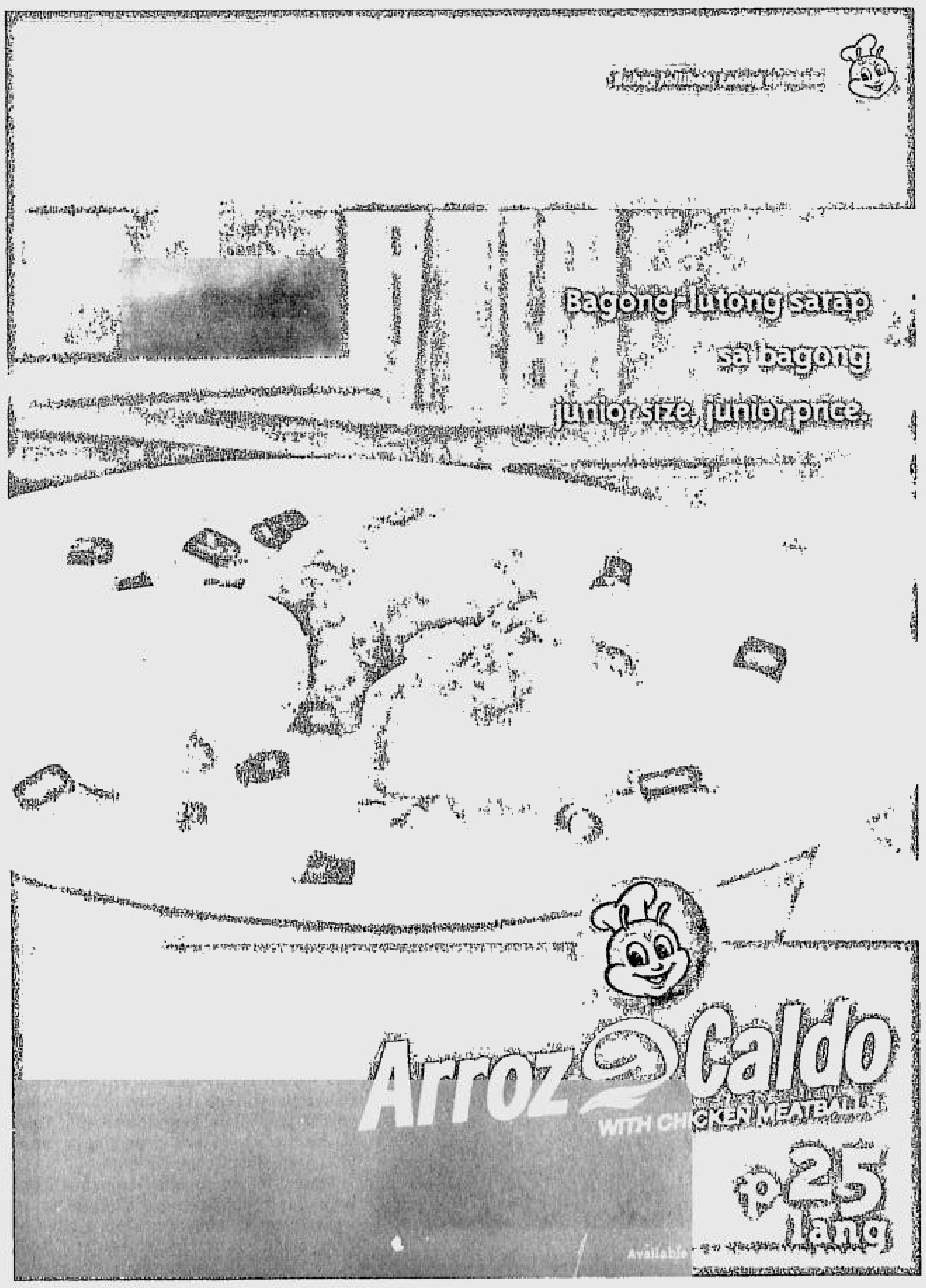
Cash had battled a disease of the nervous system, autonomic neuropathy, and pneumonia in recent years. His second wife, singer June Carter Cash, who co-wrote Cash's hit "Ring of Fire," died in May.

Cash wrote much of his own material and was among the first to record the songs of Bob Dylan and Kris Kristofferson.

Cash said in his self-titled 1997 autobiography that he tried to speak for "voices that were ignored or even suppressed in the entertainment media, not to mention the political and educational establishments."

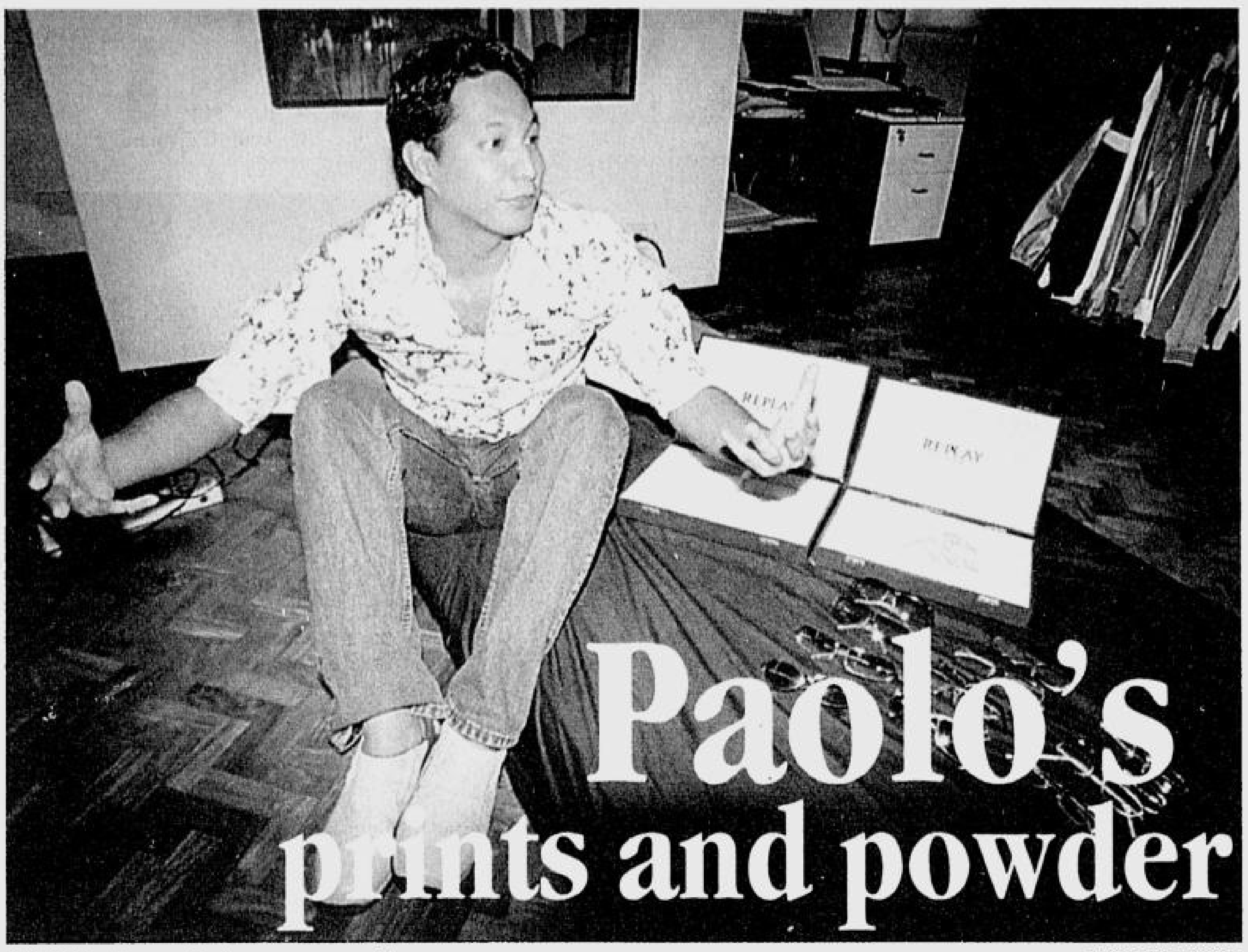
Cash won 11 Grammy Awards and numerous Country Music Association awards. He was elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1980 and inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1992.

Cash was born Feb. 26, 1932, in Kingsland, Arkansas, one of seven children. *AP*



Paolo's prints and powder pinks

OUT OF THE CLOSET


SHADES and spectacles have to say something.

PAOLO'S popularity lets him get away with floral prints.

PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS

By Marinel R. Cruz

> 'I realized that as a TV personality, I have a responsibility to my viewers and should be as trendy as possible.'

PAOLO Bediones is all over the place on television: He is a quizmaster in the "Digital LG Quiz Show" every Sunday morning. Saturday afternoons find him hosting the show biz talk show, "S-Files." On weekdays, he co-hosts the 30-minute magazine show, "Xtra, Xtra," with Miriam Quiambao.

Because he's seen daily on the boob-tube, Paolo manages his clothes carefully. He makes sure he never repeats an outfit on the same month.

"I did it before. I wore an outfit on 'Xtra, Xtra' one week and wore it again on 'S Files' a week after. I got an e-mail from a televiewer telling me that I have a tendency to be absent-minded, wearing an outfit for two consecutive weeks," Paolo told INQUIRER Entertainment during this photo shoot in his New Manila home.

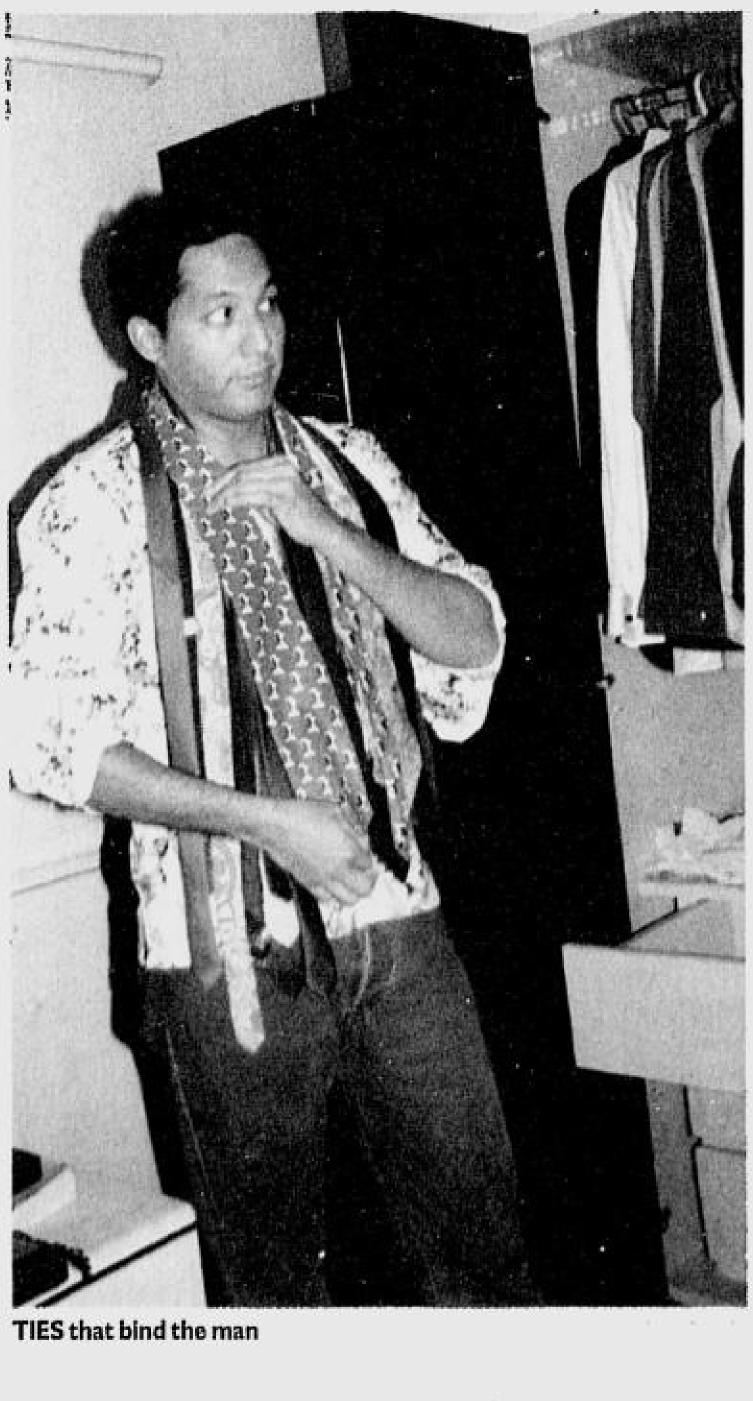
Paolo said he was traumatized by the experience and swore to never let it happen to him again.

"I realized that because I'm a TV personality, I have a responsibility to my viewers. I should be as trendy as possible because in many ways, I am capable of being a fashion icon or a trendsetter," explained Paolo. "What I wear is something that I can't take for granted. Televiewers are very particular with what I'm wearing and where I get it."

Having been in the business for seven years now, Paolo's fashion sense has evolved from the neat college-boy type to the man who is more open to experimenting with new cuts, colors, materials and silhouettes.

Paolo started out in the sports-oriented show "Gameplan" and got his break with the show biz talk show "S-Files," "mornings@gma" and "Para Boss."

CHECKING out a pair of checkered trousers


TIES that bind the man

"One thing I've learned in this business is that as you evolve as an artist, there are certain things that you can get away with, like wearing a green shirt with floral prints," he said. "This is where the importance of earning a certain level of credibility comes in."

INQUIRER Entertainment took a peek at Paolo's closet and asked him for some tips on how to become a charmer.

Leather shoes. "Buy shoes that don't necessarily dictate what you have to wear. Blue suede shoes are really nice with jeans or a really nice pair of flat-front pants. Brown suedes are good with khaki's and light-colored shirts like powder blues and pinks.

My driver polishes my shoes the day before I'm scheduled to use them because it takes a while for the polish to set."

Rubber shoes. "Shoes that you can wear without socks are those that can be easily aired or have ventilation, like Adidas Clima Cool or Foot Socks. Shoes like these are good for long-distance running. I also have Adidas originals which I can wear with jeans and thick leather jacket."

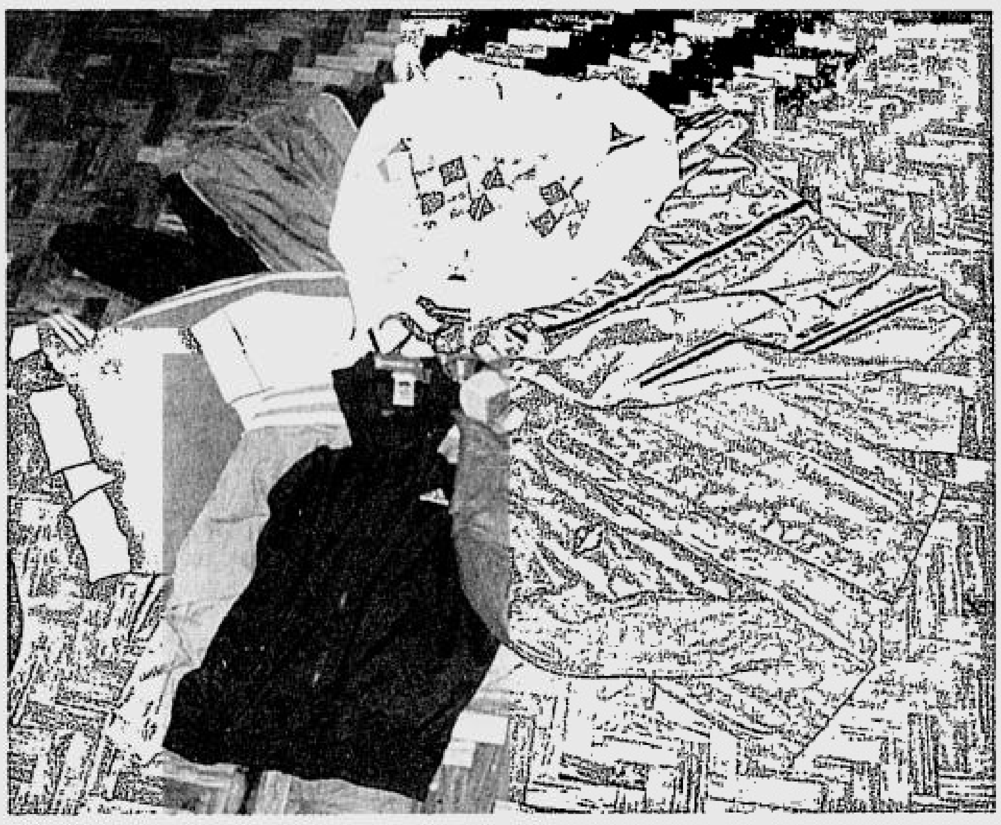
Jackets. "Get something that is great when it comes to repelling water. I have one that is made from the material used for umbrellas. It's the best for cardio exercises. You can wear a body wrap underneath this jacket. You'll see that the sweat will be pouring out from your arms.

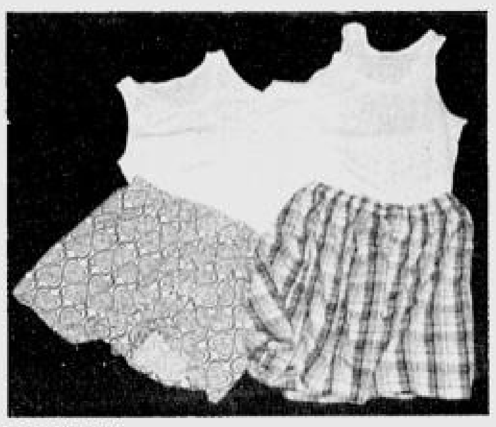
When I like a product, I really support it, like Adidas. There are many lines like Adidas originals, Forever Sport line. I have most of them. It's nice to wear something that people will notice."

Plain shirts. "Shirts, especially the pull-out three-fourth sleeved ones, look cool with jeans or shorts. It looks good if it's tight. I usually wear long-sleeved shirts on 'S-Files' and during out-of-town trips.

Printed shirts. "I get my printed shirts in Hipshop. I think the store gets them in Taiwan. They are fairly cheap, like P700. One thing I've learned in this business is that as you evolve as an artist, there are certain things that you can get away with, like wearing this green floral long-sleeved shirt. This is where the importance of earning a certain level of credibility comes in."

Pants. "When it comes to pants, I only wear flat-fronts. *Mukhang malinis*. No one wears pleated pants anymore. I have my pants made. My designers are Ramon Favila and Randy Ortiz."


WATER-REPELLANT jackets


PRINTED boxers

Jeans. "I go for button-fly jeans. I don't know why. I just got used to wearing jeans with no zippers. I don't like ironing jeans in such a way *na may tupi sa gitna*. They should be flat."

Suits. "Ariel Agasang does my suits for formal functions and corporate shows. In formal events, you can match a gray suit with a blue or violet shirt over a gray or blue necktie. You can also wear a gray shirt with the gray suit and play around with the color of the tie. Always leave the suit's bottom button open. Button up only when you go up on stage. Never take it off."

Neckties. "The proper length of a necktie should be with the tip more or less touching the belt buckle. Choosing a tie depends on your mood. When you wear one, it doesn't mean that you're already wearing something formal.

There are many ways of tying a tie, like the Windsor or Double-Windsor, etc. *Maski* neckties *kina*-career. It's important that when you tie a tie, there should be what they call the 'dimple.' One cannot underestimate the proper length and the look of the tie."

Belts. "You must consider two things in choosing a belt, the buckle and the material. Thick-buckled belts go nicely with jeans and white shirt. If you're wearing a suit, you don't want your belt to catch too much attention so you wear a small one. You don't want the buckle to bulge.

You wear a brown belt with brown shoes. Belt and shoes must match. If your belt's buckle is silver, you can wear a silver watch."

Sleepwear. "When I go to bed, I wear clothes that I also wear to the gym. When it's too hot, I wear *sando* and boxer shorts because I feel really, really comfortable in them.

Toiletries. "I always use a white bathrobe that was given to me by 'Crush ng Bayan' fans club.

My mom gave me an embroidered towel. It's nice to have a touch of home."

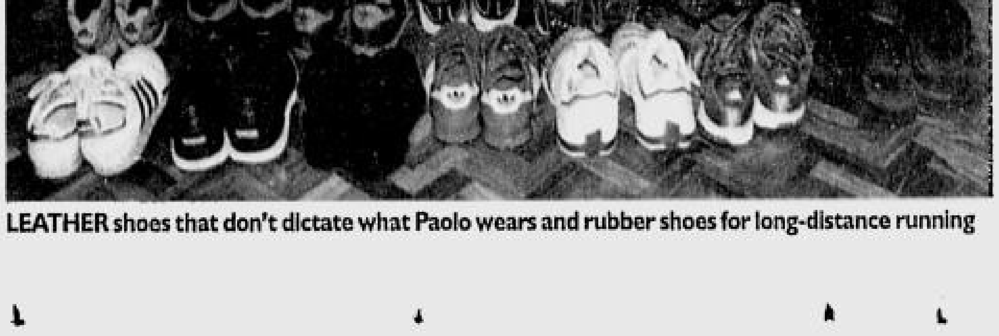
Bags. "I keep two bags, one is a backpack and the other is something I use when I play badminton.

My 30-liter Salomon day pack is so useful because it can store clothes I can wear up to four days. I use it whenever I go on location."

Perfumes. "I prefer perfumes with fruity scents. I've been using Bvlgari since I can remember. I like it because it doesn't smell irritating."

Eyeglasses. "I have two kinds of eyeglasses, reading glasses and shades. When I choose a pair, it has to say something. For example, these glasses with a narrow and curved frame give me a very casual look, while this pair with a round metal frame gives me a masculine but approachable look. It depends on my mood during the day.

The nice thing about the pair of shades I have is that they can be worn at night or during the day. This particular wrap-around specs are very powerful, meaning people won't know where I'm looking."


LEATHER shoes that don't dictate what Paolo wears and rubber shoes for long-distance running

Attractions in Star City

THE HAPPIEST place to be is also the coolest entertainment and shopping destination in Manila.

Star City has unveiled a new and fully air-conditioned second level on its sprawling indoor complex.

Cooled by powerful Carrier units, both floors are now practically weatherproof for the most comfortable shopping and recreational experience.

Aside from a wide array of food and *tiangge* stalls, the second floor area also features an activity area for kids, as well as exciting rides like the Wacky Worm, the Blizzard, the Viking, the Wild River, the Zykloon Loop, the Flying Carpet and the Land of the Giants.

As the country's pioneering theme park, the magical lights and fireworks that illuminate Star City have become the beacons that usher in the holidays for the Filipino family.

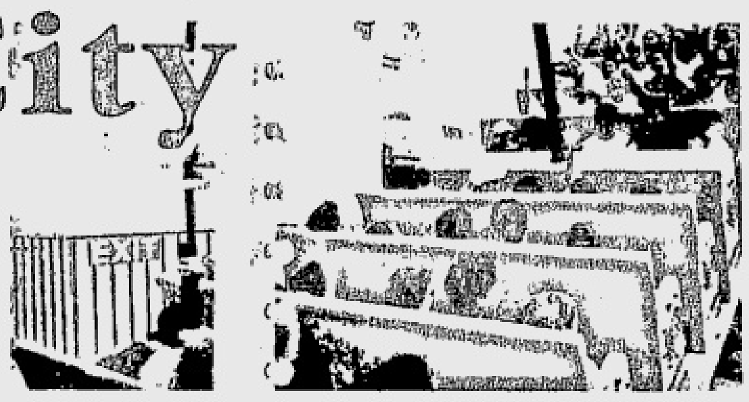
Undoubtedly the "largest entertainment center in the Philippines," Star City complex is not only home to the country's pioneering theme park, but also houses two world-class theaters for the performing arts, as well as the offices and studios of Manila Broadcasting Co., which operates over 500 stations nationwide.

Star City's 3,000-seat Aliw Theater has become a favorite venue for important concerts and grandiose events. Within a year of operations, it has hosted musical performances by top local talents like Gary Valenciano, Kuh Ledesma, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Ogie Alcasid, Jolina Magdangal, Side A, Freestyle, Rico J. Puno, Hajji Alejandro, Rey Valera, Geneva Cruz, Rachel Alejandro, among many others. Memorable international acts include music heartthrob Duncan Sheik and the ageless diva Dionne Warwick. A must-see next month will be Sergio Mendes and the Brasil 2003, who will perform with Lani Misalucha on Oct. 3 and 4.

Star Theater, the complex's other performance venue, continues to bring in young dance enthusiasts as the home of Ballet Manila (BM), which stages regular season performances under the artistic direction of prima ballerina Lisa Macuja-Elizalde, who is also the moving force behind the pioneering Circus de Ballet presentations. Lisa leads BM in an enchanting production of "Swan Lake," with the weekend performances from Sept. 19 to 28.

Entrance is free.

Star City is conveniently located at the CCP Complex along Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.



THE VIKING

Star cast …

From page C4

many children on the streets. All told, I have seen a total of six. I ask the guide and he explains China's one-child policy.

(I think of my grandchildren, and in my heart rejoice that we don't have a one-child policy in the Philippines.)

Day 3—Sept. 1

Wake-up call at 6:00 a.m. The routine is set.

We leave the hotel at 10. It's back to The Bund.

The cast is now in casual clothes. Mother Lily gets all made up by Jeffrey. The directors have decided to have her join the cast for the pictorial.

With the Huangpu river as background, the cast strikes different poses.

There are women strolling in the park selling embroidered and cross-stitched bags and other delightful items. We enjoy haggling. Back and forth we go with the prices. Most of us purchase the same things.

Back in the bus for lunch.

We are on a side street of Shanghai Mansions. There is an all-vegetable meal for the vegetarians.

The cast uses the restrooms in the hotel to change into silk *cheongsams* for the second pictorial. They have to carry their casual clothes for the third pictorial.

We are off to Yu Yuan Gardens, a model of classical Chinese garden architecture built during the reign of Ming Emperor Jiajing in 1559 as the private garden of the Sichuan Province Administration Commissioner.

Joey describes it as a very amorous setting.

Outside the gardens is Yu Yuan Temple, with Chinese Pagodas all around.

We are strolling, enjoying the sights. Then I hear a collective sigh of relief from the younger set. They have spotted their oasis. There is a Starbucks in the park.

Last stop, Nanjing—for a last pictorial. We barely make it at 9:45. The place is no longer well lit. We take photos and shop some more, until the stores close.

Day 4—Sept. 2, last day. Free Day

Our wake up call is still at 6 a.m.

At breakfast, Joey very casually comments "*Dito pala, ang* wake-up call, *talagang* physical(The wake up call here is physical)."

Apparently last night, he wanted to sleep late so he put his phone off the hook. This morning, an elderly chambermaid appeared in his room and shook him out of bed.

Luggage is down by 8 a.m. Then at 9 a.m, Dolor, Susan, Boots, Alessandra, Walden, Isah Red and I leave for Xianyang Lu Flea Market for last minute shopping.

Xianyang Lu is much like Greenhills *tiangge*, except this one is open air.

Prices are very reasonable—if you know how to haggle!

At 11 a.m., our small group is assembled.

We have lunch at Sunshine City Restaurant at the invitation of Carlos Chan of Oishi Liwayway Snack Food. As a fitting ending, ZsaZsa sings accompanied by a videoke tape. Then Mother Lily and Susan surprise us with their version of the spaghetti dance.

Our journey has come to an end. We say goodbye to Shanghai.

BANGON NGAYON

Mag-Nestlé Almusal GISING MILYONARYO 2

Promo Period: July 1 - October 18, 2003

120 KATAO, NAGSALU-SALO SA ₱3 MILLION!

₱17.5 Million pa ang ipamimigay!

Nagwagi ng tig-₱25,000 ang 120 katao sa 1st draw ng Mag-Nestlé Almusal Gising Milyonaryo 2 Raffle Promo. Pero hindi pa huli ang lahat! May nakalaan pang ₱17.5 million para sa 2nd at grand draw winners. Basahin ang sumusunod para makahabol:

HOW TO JOIN:

1. Write your name, address, signature, and the promo title, "MAG-NESTLÉ ALMUSAL, GISING MILYONARYO 2," on a genuine label, foil, and boxtop of participating Nestlé products. Entries should be clean and at least 3/4 of its original size. Entries which do not conform to the requirements and mechanics of the promo shall be automatically disqualified.

2. Drop entries in designated drop boxes found in supermarkets and groceries nationwide. In order to qualify, entries must be dropped in the draw area where the residence of the participant is located as written in the entries. All entries that are dropped in draw areas outside of a participant's residence as indicated in the entries shall be automatically disqualified.

3. Entries received after cut-off date and non-winning entries will qualify for the succeeding draws including the grand draw.

4. A consumer may win only once in every draw.

5. Winners will officially be notified via mail, with instructions on how to claim their prizes. Winners will only be considered as official once they receive their notification letters. Prizes not claimed within 60 days after receipt of letter will be forfeited upon approval of BFAD.

6. The organizer's decision, in concurrence with the BFAD, is FINAL.

7. Schedule of draws, areas, deadline of entries, & prizes are as follows:

Draw Dates	Deadline of Entries	Area	No. of Winners	Prizes (Tax-free)
2nd Preliminary Draw				
Sept. 3	Aug. 27	West Visayas	1	₱ 500,000 each
Sept. 7	Aug. 31	East Visayas	1	
Sept. 10	Sept. 3	South Mindanao	1	
Sept. 13	Sept. 6	North Mindanao	1	
Sept. 18	Sept. 11	North Luzon	1	
Sept. 18	Sept. 11	Central Luzon	1	
Sept. 18	Sept. 11	South Luzon 1	1	
Sept. 18	Sept. 11	South Luzon 2	1	
Sept. 21	Sept. 14	GMA	3	
Grand Draw				
October 18	October 4	GMA North Luzon Central Luzon South Luzon 1 South Luzon 2 East Visayas West Visayas North Mindanao South Mindanao	4 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	₱ 1,000,000 each

8. Employees of Nestlé Philippines, Inc., its advertising and promotional agencies, packaging suppliers, service contractors, distributors, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity and affinity are automatically disqualified to join the promotion.

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Si Marvin Agustin at Jody Stamaria na!

Oo, sila na nga! Sina Marvin at Jody, kasama si Ruby Rodriguez ang maghahatid ng magandang balita sa mga winners ng first and second preliminary draw ng Mag-Nestlé Almusal Gising Milyonaryo 2. Abangan sila sa mall shows na gaganapin ng alas-4 ng hapon sa Entertainment Plaza ng SM City Cebu on September 7, at SM City North Edsa on September 21!

Roxanne Barcelo at Biboy Ramirez naman ang magpapa-Click sa CDO!

Ang dalawang sikat na stars ng teen TV show na Click ay sasamahan ni Manilyn Reynes para mag-announce ng first at second preliminary draw winners ng North and South Mindanao! Abangan ang kanilang mall show sa September 13, 4 pm sa Entertainment Plaza ng SM City Cagayan De Oro!

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I Will - Patti Cathcart Love Warriors - Tuck And Patti Spirit Wind - David Arkenstone Switchbak - David Cossu
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THE CAST in Yu Yuan Temples on the last day of pictorial, (from left) Richard, Alessandra, Juday, Jay, Zsa Zsa, Susan, Lorna, Christopher, Carmina, Chynna and Cogie.

AT THE BUND. Juday and Susan

JAY Manalo checks his ticket at Broadway Mansions Hotel.

CHRISTOPHER shoots his own film at Shanghai Airport

ROSELLE Monteverde and Xander, photographer and photo exhibit director with Walden Belen who takes his own photos.

4 DAYS IN SHANGHAI

Star cast gives lessons in professionalism

By Marichu Vera Perez Maceda

AUG. 21

Mother Lily Monteverde makes me an offer I can't refuse. Would I join the cast and production staff of "Mano Po 2" in a four-day shoot in Shanghai?

Now, who would pass up a chance like that?

Day 1—Aug. 30, 10 a.m., Naia

PR336 is scheduled to leave at 12:30 p.m. As early as 9 a.m., Jo Ann Bañaga arrives at the airport together with the heads of Uni-Orient Travel to meet the "troops." At 10 a.m. they start marching in. Susan Roces and I arrive almost at the same time.

Airport employees have a field day watching the stars. While waiting for the rest of the group, I see Lorna Tolentino, Zsa Zsa Padilla and Judy Ann Santos sitting on the floor, people-watching.

Mother Lily abandons her traditional white attire and wears an electric blue jacket for her interview with Boy Abunda and Kris Aquino for "The Buzz."

Christopher de Leon, handsome as ever, carries his Tumi Black leather backpack.

Susan looks regal, not a hair out of place.

Cogie Domingo and Richard Gutierrez appear very mature for their ages.

Carmina Villaroel resembles a model. So do Alessandra de Rossi and Chynna Ortaleza.

We take off on time. Jay Manalo falls asleep immediately.

Richard Chen and Ben Nollora, our photographers, are taking shots non-stop. Mario Dumaual shoots for ABS-CBN 2 and Lhar Santiago for GMA 7. I notice a young girl walking up and down the aisle with a video camera. I wonder what TV station she represents. I look up. It's Judy Ann!

Two hours later, Dolor Guevarra announces that the girls must be all made up before landing at 4 p.m. Everyone must be ready for work.

Once on the ground, we are shocked at the number of people lined up for Health and Immigration. We see a small group of Filipinos, and only five or six Caucasians. The rest are Chinese.

Zsa Zsa and Carmina have the heaviest bags. Christopher's backpack is salutatorian.

We are in Shanghai. It is a very European-looking city. The bridges remind me of those in Amsterdam, Italy or France. The architecture is a mixture of European, Byzantine, French and modern.

The ride from the airport is breathtaking. I hold my breath as we drive under and over elevated freeways. I see numerous vehicles, but there are no traffic snarls.

We head straight to dinner. Manny Valera, supervising producer, announces that the whole cast must be in be full makeup and their hair must be done for the first pictorial in The Bund.

Out of nowhere, Mother Lily brings out a suitcase full of Chinese brocade blouses for both men and women. Tatus Aldana, our production designer, distributes the blouses to the cast of 11.

The cast is divided into Group A: Christopher and his three wives—Susan, Zsa Zsa and Lorna. Group B consists of the second generation: Judy Ann, Carmina, Chynna, Alessandra, Cogie, Jay Manalo and Richard.

What a sight this is. Carmina has her hair done right there at the dinner table. The girls try on their blouses on top of their shirts. Even the boys join in the impromptu fashion parade.

From the restaurant, we get back in the bus and on to Broadway Mansion Hotel. Here, the stars pull out their luggage from the bus. No porters. They bring them to one side of the lobby to open them and get their pants and accessories out.

Zsa Zsa has her makeup done as she sits behind the assistant manager's desk. Carmina is on the floor, her suitcase wide open in front of her. Lorna decides to wear rubber shoes after hearing that we have to walk to The Bund.

Christopher calmly meditates beside the bus, then takes his luggage to the lobby. Alessandra and Chynna emerge with red hair extensions. Alex wears a micro-mini denim skirt to match her red satin blouse.

Through all this, only Susan does not need to have hair or makeup done.

I feel an inordinate pride to see these big stars get their own luggage and pick up after themselves. Willingly assisting the ladies are Lhar Santiago, Walden Belen, Ben Nollora, Mario Dumaual and the rest of our boys.

We walk for 15 minutes to get to The Bund, a town on the west side of the Huangpu River. We are at a park, very much like our own Luneta, teeming with people. We see a statue of Mao Tse Tung. As soon as the pictorial starts, people become curious.

Even for just a photo shoot, the cast has to stay in character. Members of the younger generation pose like models. The first group is regal and poised.

Soon, people join the action and ask to pose with the stars. They are polite, not pushy. And the cast is only too happy to oblige. Pictorial ends at 11:30 p.m.

I can't wait for the refuge of my room. My roommate is JoAnn Bañaga, my executive producer for "Pira-pirasong Pangarap" for seven years. It is 1 a.m. by the time we get our room key.

(I learn that Mother Lily still went out at 1.30 with some of the cast for snacks. As I am dropping off to sleep, I marvel at her energy.)

Day 2—Aug. 31

The phone rings at 5:30 a.m. It's the hotel wake-up call. It can't be morning, I bury my face in my pillow.

At 6 a.m., Mother Hen Dolor Guevarra is our second wake-up call. I'm dreaming of congee.

By 6:30 a.m., Room 1401 of Joey Gosengfiao is a beehive of activity. Curlers, curling irons, brushes, powder, mascara, lip gloss! Our hair and makeup artists (experts, I call them) are super busy. Jerome Chang, Jeffrey Robles, Lenny Diaz and Christian whose last name I didn't catch, are focused on their work.

We have breakfast at the ballroom on the second floor.

Costumes are distributed after the meal.

At 9:30, the stars assemble at the lobby.

We board our assigned buses at 10:15.

We arrive in Long Hua Temple at 10:30. It is a ten-minute walk to the site.

Everyone is in work mode. No time to waste. It's great to watch professionals do their thing.

In the midst of all the action, Joey pulls whoever is available for publicity stills.

At 11:45, we are back in the bus for a quick second costume change. At 1:00 we feast on packed lunches inside the bus.

Whoever said that being a movie star is all glamour and fame? If people only knew. the hard work that goes with stardom!

Try to picture Mother Lily, keenly aware of all that surrounds her, but at the same time, concentrating on her daily exercises—fingers curled, reaching overhead before lunging forward, stretching, then bending.

Weaving in and out of the scene, is Christopher. He walks talking to himself, as he holds his video camera, faithfully documenting every single moment. He is doing his own voice-over.

Lorna and Carmina are on their knees in the courtyard getting their hair and makeup retouched.

Susan sits calmly drinking in the sights and sounds.

Zsa Zsa is so childlike, singing and humming. Suddenly, she startles me as she breaks out in a cadence of Chinese words. She sounds like she knows what she's saying. She is practicing her lines for a dialogue with Christopher.

Judy Ann is very quiet. Alex and Chynna are always ready for their cues and instructions. And it is bonding time for Jay, Cogie and Richard.

But before sundown, everyone is ready to collapse.

Lorna is overheard saying, "Wow. Tita Susan does not complain, so how can we?"

Susan really sets the tone. She is a real trouper and so is everyone else in this cast and crew.

We return to a very warm bus. Manny and Roselle decide to call it a day.

After a very spicy meal at Xiu Shao Ping Restaurant, half of the group decides to go shopping in Nanjing, a one-kilometer stretch of shops and eateries. It is known as Shanghai's 5th Avenue. It is a promenade with a small train in the middle to ferry passengers who are too tired to walk. The place is full of people but somehow, we feel safe and secure.

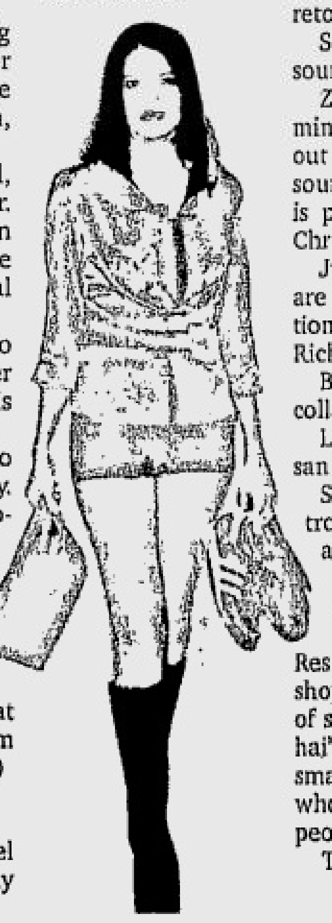
There is one thing I notice. I don't see too

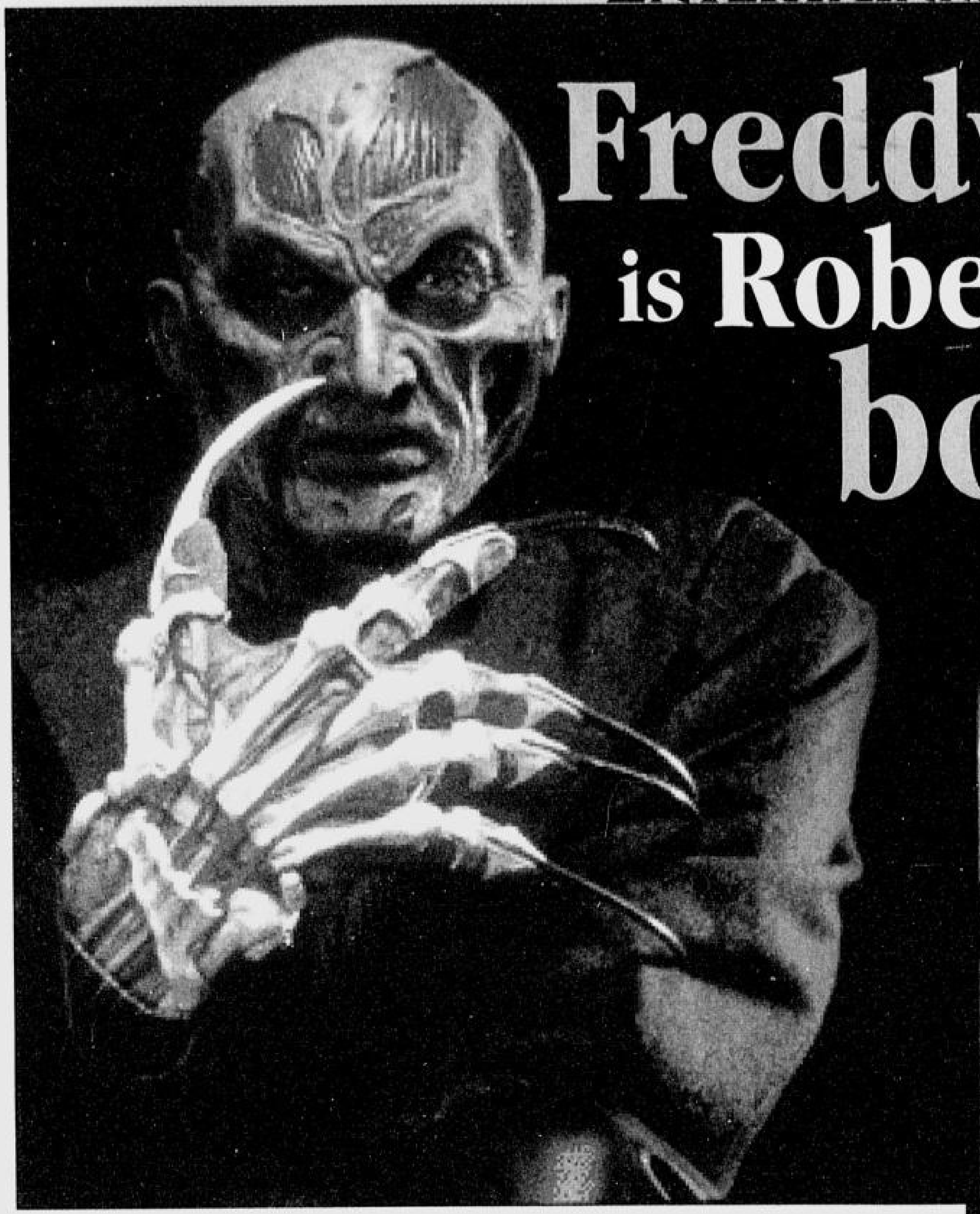
STAR/C3

AT YU Yuan Garden and Temples. Zsa Zsa gets made up by Leony Diaz while Lorna (at right) has her hair done.

CARMINA at the Broadway Mansions Hotel lobby

RICHARD talks on his cell phone; Alex (below) carries her rubber shoes.





Freddy Krueger is Robert Englund's bonus

ROBERT Englund as the nasty, gleefully evil Freddy Krueger is also a funny guy.

By Janet Susan R. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—You've seen him as the man with the scarred, burnt face, the hideous look and smirk of the devil with sharp claws in place of fingers ready to slash and maim.

The gleefully nasty Freddy Krueger is back in New Line Cinema's blockbuster slasher-thriller "Freddy vs. Jason."

This time, Freddy (Robert Englund), who has been languishing in hell for the past 10 years, wakes up the sleeping killing machine Jason Voorhees (Ken Kirzinger) whom he sends to a homicidal mission to a very familiar locale: 1428 Elm Street.

After seeing Englund in all that blood, gore and brutal violence onscreen last night, INQUIRER Entertainment is relieved to see the clean-cut, blonde, smiling actor in a hotel room one recent beautiful afternoon.

Dressed all in black except for a green plaid long-sleeved shirt, Englund is killing us... with his infectious sense of humor.

Typecasting Freddy

The bearded and bemoustached horror icon, believe it or not, is a natural comic. The guy who gave us the chills and the shivers is now making us laugh.

Eloquent, down-to-earth and a natural ham, Englund, who has lived the classic hand-to-mouth existence of a struggling actor, talks to us about how it is like being Freddy Krueger all this time (after seven sequels and a syndicated TV series).

"People are so worried about me being worried about playing Freddy Krueger and being typecast as a horror icon. What they don't know probably is that before Freddy, I was typecast as a white trash, redneck, someone's best friend, bad guy number one, friendly alien, lizard guy, you name it, I did it," he reveals.

"Well, all I can say is, it's better to be typecast as a horror icon because Freddy GETS it (he uses his hand to mimic Freddy's long scissor-like hands, mock grabbing something in front of our face)!"

We shriek. He laughs.

"I am going to leave you guys in two weeks," he proudly adds. "I am going on a plane to Venice, Italy and attend the second best film festival in the world, which is the Venice Film Festival, where my movie (yes, the Robert Yu-directed 'Freddy v. Jason') will be featured."

The horror flick opened in the US with an estimated $36.4 million.

Playing Freddy

"I am also doing an anti-war film in Montreal which is very serious and I'm very proud of. Now both these films are two completely different movies and I wouldn't be doing all this at my age if I did not play Freddy Krueger," he points out.

"Playing Freddy gave me international success and recognition because horror movies travel very well. It opened doors for me. Now I am known in Tel Aviv, Budapest, Rome, Prague, London, or Paris.

"In the following weeks, I will be talking to journalists from Europe while having bottles of wine during my two hour European lunch. For sure, somebody will look at me in the eye and realize that, 'Hey, Robert Englund can do this!' And 'Robert Englund can do that!' And you know what, this is all because of Freddy Krueger!"

ENGLUND, without the mask and the sharp scythes.

'I found true love directing a horror movie ... I guess, you can say, I got the girl'

Englund, at the time playing a friendly alien in the hit weekly TV show, "V," was discovered when, during a break from filming the series, he auditioned for a hot young director named Wes Craven.

It was Craven who gave him the role of the burn-scarred demon Freddy Krueger in "A Nightmare on Elm Street." And the rest, as they say, is horror history.

Are Freddy Krueger fans rabid?

"They are," he replies. "I've got some of the most interesting experiences especially since science fiction fans are so serious.

"They are very well read and very literate, but they also try to find these worlds that they want to live in that are not real worlds."

Stalking Freddy

"One time," he narrates, "I had this girl who actually made herself look like me. She dressed like me. She combed her hair like me. She was so obsessed with the character and with me that it was really scary.

"Then she would write to me regularly. But she was such a good writer that one day, I told her, 'You will make a good screenwriter. Why don't you just forget about me and become one. Knock this off!'

"Well, guess what: She did become a screenwriter and now she's doing well. And that was all inspired by Freddy!"

Freddy gets the girls

With him being Freddy all these years, was it easy for him to get the girls?

Englund's blue eyes twinkle. He smiles dreamily and starts talking.

"I was able to direct a horror movie once and I fell in love with my art director. I would sneak up to the art department and pretend to check on her work. She also had a refrigerator in her office and all these health food and good juices.

"So I would pretend to be checking on what she has in her refrigerator. She works really hard and so sometimes, she would sleep under her desk and I would watch her sleep. And I would just sit there and watch her sleep.

"Doesn't that sound creepy?" he asks us before breaking into laughter.

"But actually, she was just so beautiful. She still is. Every time I wake up in the morning, I look at her. And I say to myself how lucky can I get. I also forced her to look for locations as a location scout even though I have already picked my locations (he laughs). I just love being with her and looking at her especially one day when she was wearing this military green army T-shirt.

"I kept always thinking, what if my arm was permanently connected here (he pretends to hug someone on the shoulder). I really fell for her so hard. I was 39. I found true love directing a horror movie, you know. So I guess, you can say, I got the girl."

Married to a mechanic

Is he married to her?

"Oh yes, I met Nancy in 1987 and we've been married since October 1988. And she's the mechanic and the techie 'guy' in the family. She can change a tire and she runs my website. She's also a very serious gardener. I get lost at Home Depot!"

Englund remembers the day they got married. "We flew everybody to Santa Fe, Mexico. The chapel had this beautiful long winding staircase. I slipped and spilled my drink all over me and the next day, the National Enquirer's headlines read: 'Sick Robert Englund's Little Chapel. The Day of the Dead. Slasher Wedding in Santa Fe, Mexico.' "

When did he decide he wanted to act for a living?

"I was only 12 or 13 years old when I was already acting in children's theatre. I was Aladdin, Peter Pan. I was sitting in the basement of UCLA, and all the girls were 14 or 15 years old.

"I had really long hair at that time and the girls were stroking my hair and playing with it. For the part, they were teaching us to blow smoke rings. So I was sitting there, singing along, the girls stroking my hair and I realize 'Hey, this isn't for sissies! This is great!' I became one of these guys. That was a phase.

Freddy is relaxed

"As for being Freddy, I was old enough when I landed the part. I had a younger fan base and it really took off. So I kicked off and enjoyed the ride.

"If the audience falls in love with the character, you have to stick to it. If you fight it, it's very difficult. You might spend a year of your life doing an independent film and no one will see it and they'll just forget about you. Now that's more heartbreaking to me than flying off to Europe and promoting my latest Freddy Krueger movie.

"I watched how some actors have been typecast like in the 'Star Wars' movie and how they have fought against their roles. But I didn't fight it. I was just going to relax.

"I can open a movie anywhere in the world because I have a horror fan base. I know I am just a character actor... but I am also known as Freddy Krueger. And that, my dear, that's the bonus."

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PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN PG13 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50	S.W.A.T. PG13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	DADDY DAY CARE GP 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
MEDALLION PG13 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	LEGALLY BLONDE 2 GP 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:50	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS R13 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:55, 10:10

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

ALL DIGITAL SOUND

AYALA CINEMAS

PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 THE MEDALLION	1 S.W.A.T.	Artfilm LE PACTE DU SILENCE (EXCLUSIVE) 11:50, 1:40, 3:30, 5:20, 7:10, 9:00	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 S.W.A.T. 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00	THX 1 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
2 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS	2 LEGALLY BLONDE 2	2 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS 2:25, 4:40, 6:55, 9:10, 11:25	2 DADDY DAY CARE
3 DADDY DAY CARE	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS 1:10, 3:20, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30	MARTIN NIEVERA Sep. 19 & 20, 9PM BEAUTY & THE BEAST (THE MUSICAL PLAY) Sept 18 - 7PM	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 THE MEDALLION 1:20, 3:10, 5:00, 6:50, 8:40, 10:30	3 S.W.A.T.
4 S.W.A.T	4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 DADDY DAY CARE 1:20, 3:10, 5:00, 6:50, 8:40, 10:30	4 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
	5 SINBAD 2 FAST 2 FRUIOUS		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 LEGALLY BLONDE 2 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	5 THE MEDALLION
	6 THE MEDALLION			
	7 DADDY DAY CARE			

For sreening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

MMTA

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MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA

(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	MEDALLION
2 (SDDS)	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
3 (DTS)	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
4 GOLD (DTS ES)	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
5 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	MEDALLION
6 GOLD (SDDS)	SWAT
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	DADDY DAY CARE
8	SPY KIDS 3D
9	PINAY PIE
10	SINBAD

Pearl Plaza Cinemas

(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3 (DTS)	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6 (DTS)	RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX	RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA 1 2 & 3

(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	KALABIT
2	MEDALLION
3	ASBOOBS

starmall Movies

www.clickthecity.com.ph (Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	MEDALLION
2	ASBOOBS
3	KALABIT
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	SWAT
5	WWW.XXX.COM

METROPOLIS star

www.clickthecity.com.ph (Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	KALABIT
2	WWW.XXX.COM
3	ASBOOBS
4	MEDALLION
5	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
6	SWAT

M star

www.clickthecity.com.ph (Las Pinas) tel 873.5004

1	SWAT
2	ASBOOBS

PREMIERE CINEMA THX

(Makati City) TEL. 893-4225, 892-2503

2 FAST 2 FURIOUS

Center Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	PINAY PIE
2	ITALIAN JOB

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC

tel 930.9515

1
2
3

Sunshine

(FTI, Taguig) TEL. 776-74-21

1	KALABIT
2	ASBOOBS
3	SWAT
4	RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City

(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS)	MEDALLION
4	RESERVE
5	KALABIT
6	ASBOOBS
7 (DTS)	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
8 (SDDS)	SWAT
9 (DOLBY)	DADDY DAY CARE

Gotesco Caloocan

tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central

(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1	KALABIT
2	PINAY PIE
3	ASBOOBS
4 (SDDS)	SWAT
5	MEDALLION
6 (DOLBY)	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
7 (DTS)	DADDY DAY CARE
8	WWW.XXX.COM
9	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN

Gotesco Commonwealth

tel 951.0082

1	ASBOOBS
2 (SDDS)	DADDY DAY CARE
3 (DTS)	MEDALLION
4 (DOLBY)	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
5	KALABIT

Gotesco Ortigas

tel 656.6795

1	ASBOOBS
2	MEDALLION
3 (DTS)	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
4	KALABIT
5 (SDDS)	SWAT

Universal

(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	RESERVE

Sampaguita

(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	RESERVE

Dilson

(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	NAKED EYE
Lords	JAIL BIRDS
Jennet	RESERVE

Mandaluyong

tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	ASBOOBS
2	MEDALLION
3	KALABIT
4	SWAT

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA

tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	MEDALLION
2	SWAT
3	KALABIT
4	ASBOOBS
5	RESERVE

FRC Cinema

(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	ASBOOBS
2	KALABIT

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT

Araneta MALL CINEPLEX 7

tel 911.3101 loc. 821,8242,8400

1	KALABIT
2	ASBOOBS
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE MEDALLION
4 (SDDS)	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
5 (DTS)	SWAT
6	DADDY DAY CARE
7	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS

tel 911.3101 loc. 821,8242,8400

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall

(Sta. Rosa Laguna) TEL. (049) 837-0926

1	WWW.XXX.COM
2	PINAY PIE
3 (DTS)	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	SPY KIDS 3D
2 (DTS)	SWAT
3 (DOLBY)	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
4	DADDY DAY CARE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	DADDY DAY CARE
2 (DOLBY)	SPY KIDS 3D
3 (DTS)	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
4	SWAT

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	SPY KIDS 3D
2	PINAY PIE
3 (DOLBY)	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown

(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	PINAY PIE
2	KEKA
3 (DOLBY)	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
4 (DTS)	ITALIAN JOB

Magic Star Cinema

(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY)	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
2 (DTS)	ITALIAN JOB
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	VISIBLE SECRET
2	ASBOOBS
3 (DTS)	WWW.XXX.COM
4	KALABIT

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	SWAT
2	PINAY PIE
3 (DTS)	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
4	WWW XXX COM
5	DADDY DAY CARE

Olivarez Tri-Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	PINAY PIE
2	WWW XXX COM
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Olivarez Los Baños

tel (049) 249.2558

1	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
2	SWAT
3	SPY KIDS 3D

Mega Center Mall

(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	ITALIAN JOB
2	NOON AT NGAYON
3 (DTS)	KEKA
4	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN

Cabuyao

(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Emperor

(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	WWW XXX COM
2	ASBOOBS
3	RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	WWW XXX COM
2	PINAY PIE
3	ITALIAN JOB
4	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	SWAT
2	KEKA
3 (DTS ES)	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
4	DADDY DAY CARE

Cine Nepo Mall

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-0121

1	PINAY PIE
2	DADDY DAY CARE
3 (DOLBY)	SWAT
4 (DTS)	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

Level 4

Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang

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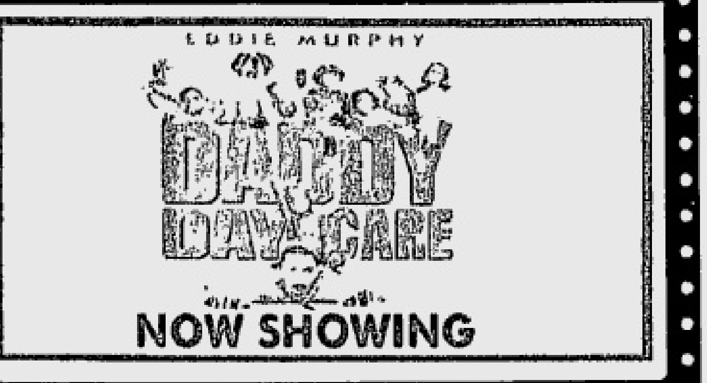
Schedule subject to change without prior notice



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SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999

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SM CITY BACOOR

4173868

1	ASBOOBS
2	KALABIT
3	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
4	DADDY DAY CARE
5	S.W.A.T.
6	THE MEDALLION
7	PINAY PIE
8	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

SM CENTERPOINT

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1	THE MEDALLION
2	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
3	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
4	WWW.XXX.COM
5	S.W.A.T.
6	ASBOOBS
7	PINAY PIE
8	DADDY DAY CARE
9	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
10	KALABIT

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

9350749

1	SINBAD
2	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
3	WWW.XXX.COM
4	THE MEDALLION
5	S.W.A.T.
6	PINAY PIE
7	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
8	ASBOOBS
9	DADDY DAY CARE
10	KALABIT
11	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
12	THE MEDALLION

SM CITY MANILA

5236240

1	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
2	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
3	S.W.A.T.
4	THE MEDALLION
5	DADDY DAY CARE
6	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
7	KALABIT
8	WWW.XXX.COM
9	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
10	PINAYPIE
11	ASBOOBS
12	THE MEDALLION

SM MEGAMALL

6331901 • 6329401

1 (FOR SEAT RESERVATION CALL [illegible])	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
2	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
3	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
4	THE MEDALLION
5	DADDY DAY CARE
6	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
7	SINBAD
8	ASBOOBS
9	KALABIT
10	S.W.A.T.
11	PINAY PIE
12	WWW.XXX.COM

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

9295452

1	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
2	S.W.A.T.
3	KALABIT
4	PINAY PIE
5	SINBAD
6	DADDY DAY CARE
7	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
8	THE MEDALLION

SM SOUTHMALL

8068888

1	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
2	S.W.A.T.
3	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
4	DADDY DAY CARE
5	WWW.XXX.COM
6	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
7	ASBOOBS
8	THE MEDALLION
9	PINAY PIE
10	KALABIT

SM CITY CEBU

2313876

1	S.W.A.T.
2	SPY KIDS 3-D
3	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
4	WWW.XXX.COM
5	SINBAD
6	ASBOOBS
7	PINAY PIE
8	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS

SM CITY ILOILO

3209422

1	MR. BONES
2	RESERVED
3	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
4	KEKA
5	PINAY PIE
6	SINBAD
7	RESERVED
8	AS BOOBS

SM CITY PAMPANGA

7128015

1	S.W.A.T.
2	DADDY DAY CARE
3	ASBOOBS
4	KALABIT
5	PINAY PIE
6	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT

8294975

1	KALABIT
2	THE MEDALLION
3	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
4	DADDY DAY CARE

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

2514302

1	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
2	MEDALLION
3	ASBOOBS
4	KALABIT

SM CITY DAVAO

2976998

1	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
2	KALABIT
3	PINAY PIE
4	ASBOOBS
5	SINBAD
6	ITALIAN JOB

SM BICUTAN

776-3055

1	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
2	KALABIT
3	DADDY DAY CARE
4	THE MEDALLION

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

859-2884

1	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
2	PINAY PIE
3	NAKED WEAPON
4	SINBAD

THE PODIUM

18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
633-8976

1	DADDY DAY CARE 11:00 FS/11:10 MF/1:05/3:00/5:05/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:30 END
2	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS 11:40 FS/12:10 MF/2:20/4:30/10:35 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:45 END

LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

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THX /All Digital

1 S.W.A.T. 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30 THX	4 DADDY DAY CARE 11:00, 12:50, 2:40, 4:30, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00
2 THE MEDALLION 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	5 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:50
3 S.W.A.T. 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	6 LEGALLY BLONDE 2 10:50, 1:00, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
7 KALABIT 11:00, 1:00, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	9 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
8 PINAY PIE 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00	10 SINBAD 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50

MATINEE PRICE: P100 THX cinema / P75 4level cinemas
Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita

526-7185
536-7809 to 12

1 THE MEDALLION - 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
2 KALABIT - 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
3 S.W.A.T.- 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
4 DADDY DAY CARE - - 10:10, 12:05, 2:00, 3:55, 5:50, 7:45, 9:40
5 Legally Blonde 2 - 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50, 11:45
6 ASBOOBS 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50, 11:45
7 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

Metro East

Marcos hway
682-8193/99
682-8280

1	DADDY DAY CARE
2	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
3	S.W.A.T.
4	THE MEDALLION
5	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
6	ASBOOBS
7	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
8	KALABIT

Novaliches

935-3229 / 31

1	THE MEDALLION
2	KALABIT
3	S.W.A.T.
4	DADDY DAY CARE
5	THE MEDALLION
6	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
7	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
8	PINAY PIE

Star Mills San Fernando Pampanga (045)875-1321 (045)961-6270	Imus (046)471-8188 / 875-5856
1 DADDY DAY CARE	1 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
2 KALABIT	2 S.W.A.T.
3 KEKA	3 ASBOOBS
4 ASBOOBS	4 THE MEDALLION
5 S.W.A.T.	5 KALABIT
6 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS	6 DADDY DAY CARE

Bacolod (034)441-0458-59	Iloilo (033)336-8070 to 78
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN	1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
2 SINBAD	2 ASBOOBS
3 PINAY PIE	3 ITALIAN JOB
4 ITALIAN JOB	4 ALEX AND EMMA
5 ASBOOBS	5 KEKA
6 TALK TO HER/WWW.XXX.COM	6 MR. BONES

Sta. Rosa Laguna (049)837-0907	Malabon Dagupan 288-0985/2575
1 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS	1 KALABIT
2 S.W.A.T.	2 THE MEDALLION
3 PINAY PIE	3 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
4 DADDY DAY CARE	4 ASBOOBS
5 PINAY PIE	

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JACKIE CHAN
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COLUMBIA TRISTAR PRESENTS
THE MEDALLION

NOW SHOWING
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MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Stronger impact…

From page C8

Villanueva and Nicolas Pichay, and directed by Maribel Legarda, at SM Centerpoint's Cinema 5. Players include Bodgie Pascua, Sugus Legaspi, Nor Domingo, Cris Gonzales, Ruth Alferez and Charyl Chan.

In the play, three of Andersen's characters are about to confront their creator. Thumbelina, the Steadfast Tin Soldier and the Little Match Girl find that Hans is terribly upset after learning that his stories have been tampered with. He can't understand why his characters have changed and are no longer the way he imagined them.

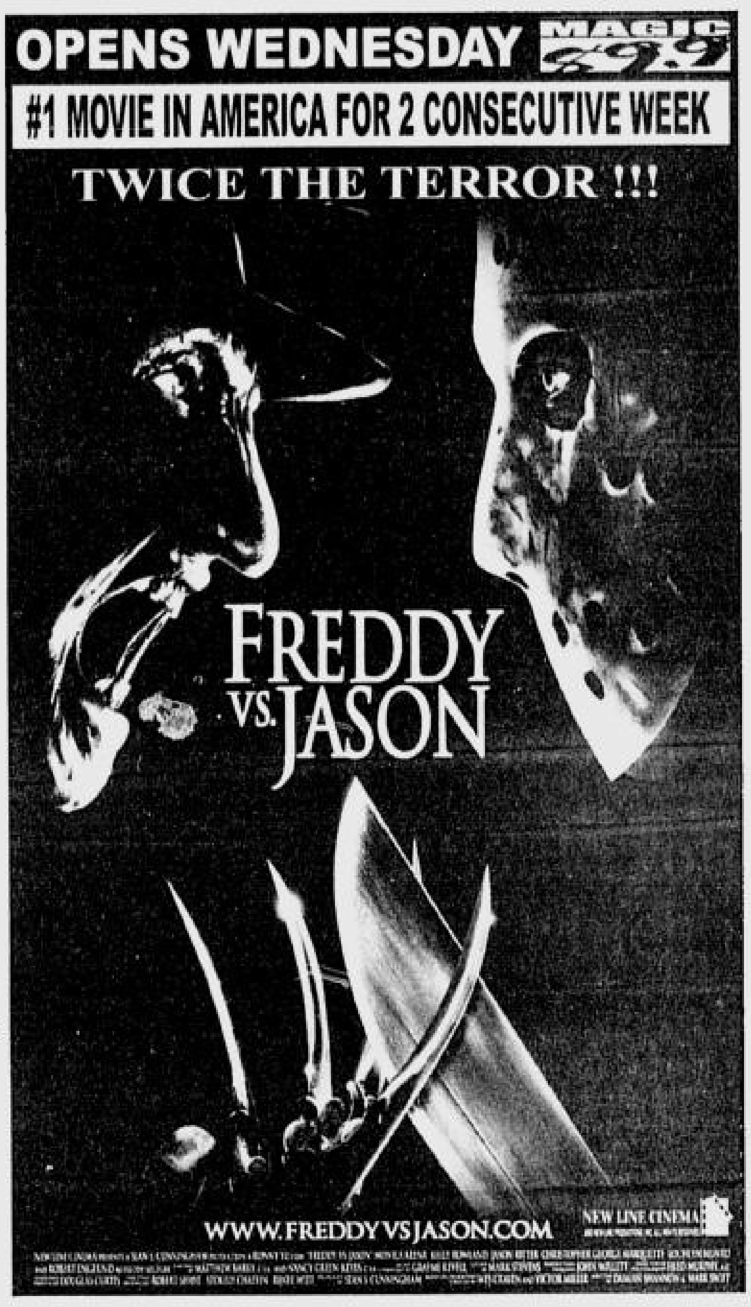
Unknown to him, they have just returned from a journey to the Philippines, and their experiences have made them Filipino. Andersen realizes that this is the only way they can live forever in the hearts of people everywhere, and that he too must become Filipino.

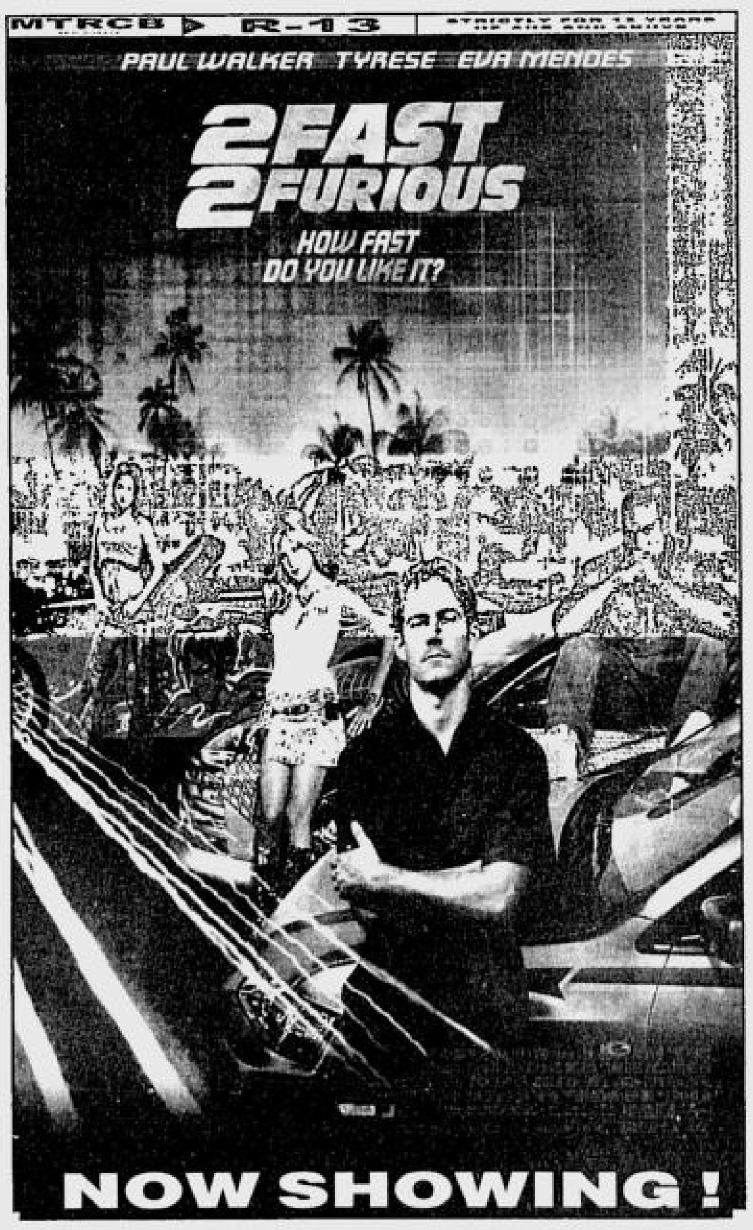
The play will have its regular run at SM Megamall Cinema 4 from Oct. 20 to 25. It was first performed in the Netherlands in 1998, for the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. Call 410-0822.

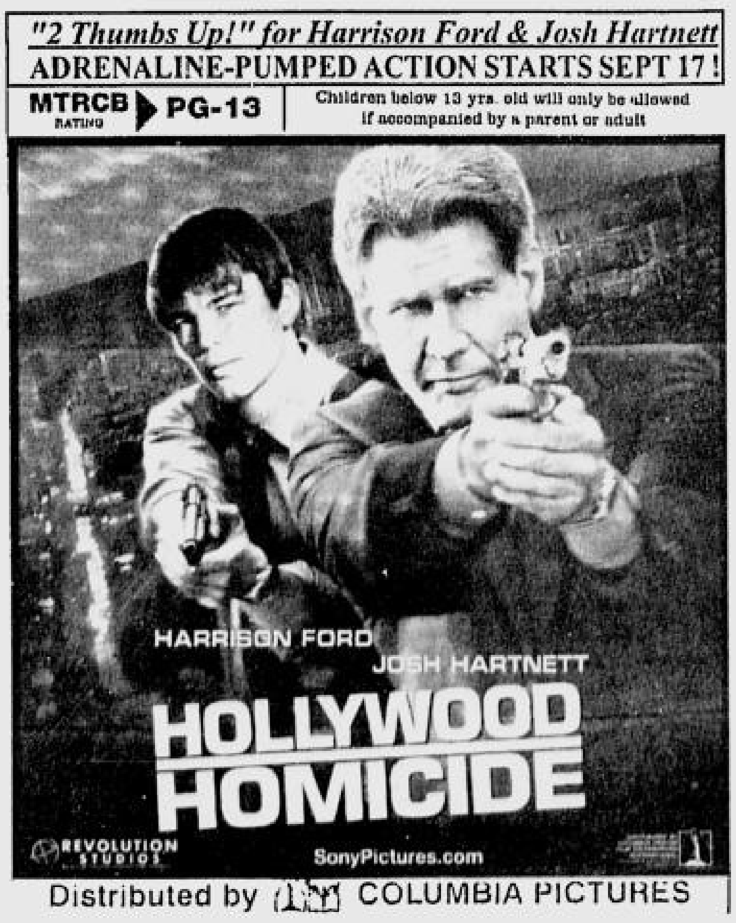
Christine Carlos at Azurro

CHILL out with the cool, soothing acoustic jazz and pop songs of gifted singer Christine Carlos, with Paul Soto on classical guitar, every Wednesday from 8:30 p.m. to midnight at Azurro Bistro and Winebar.

Christine has performed in clubs both here and abroad, and has also made a name for herself in musical theater productions, and as a maker of short films. Azurro is at 104 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village. Call 889-0569 or 884-2239.


OPENS WEDNESDAY
MAGIC 89.9
#1 MOVIE IN AMERICA FOR 2 CONSECUTIVE WEEK
TWICE THE TERROR !!!
FREDDY VS. JASON
WWW.FREDDYVSJASON.COM
NEW LINE CINEMA


MTRCB R-13
PAUL WALKER TYRESE EVA MENDES
2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
HOW FAST DO YOU LIKE IT?
NOW SHOWING !


"2 Thumbs Up!" for Harrison Ford & Josh Hartnett
ADRENALINE-PUMPED ACTION STARTS SEPT 17 !
MTRCB RATING PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
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JOSH HARTNETT
HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
REVOLUTION STUDIOS
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with guests Rachel Alejandro, Hotbabes, Tosca Puno and Sarah Geronimo
Due to popular demand!
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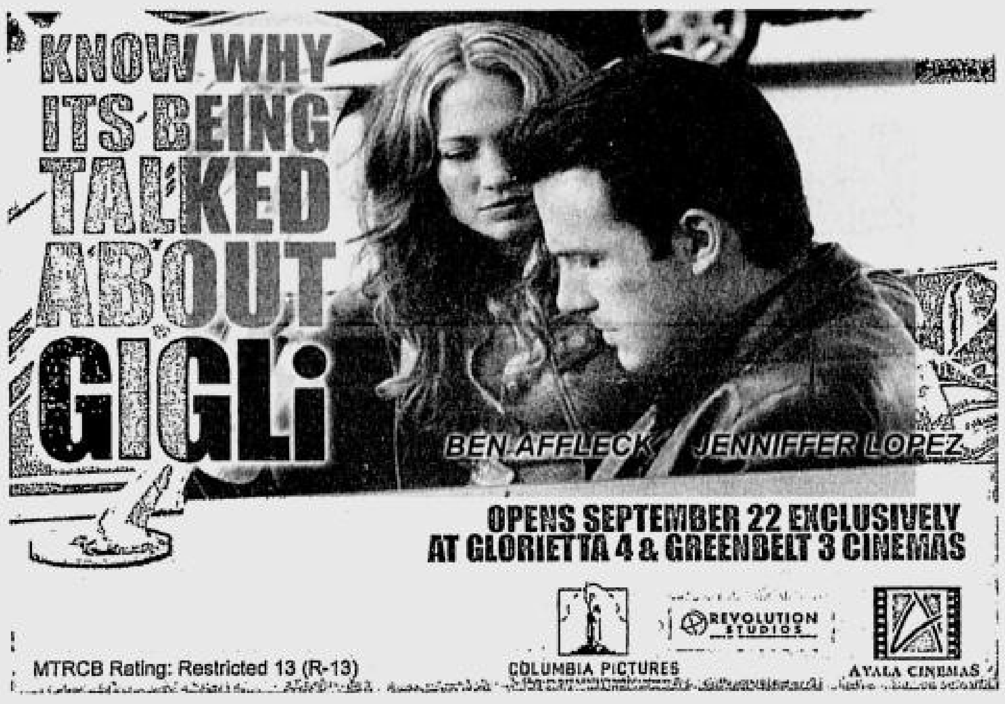
Just Once More!
September 26, 2003
8:00 PM
Araneta Coliseum
TICKET PRICES: Patron A-P1,200 / Patron B-P1,200 / Lower Box-P850
Upper Box A-P500 / Upper Box B-P250 / General Admission-P100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MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)
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REVOLUTION STUDIOS
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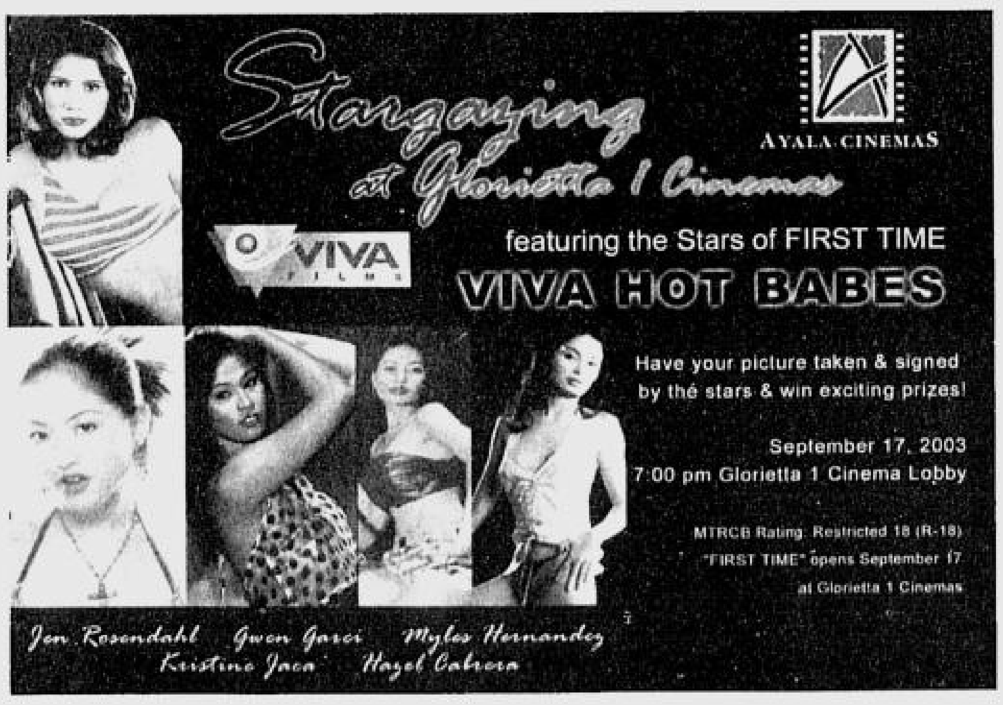
The First Australian Film Festival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AYALA CINEMAS
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featuring the Stars of FIRST TIME
VIVA HOT BABES
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September 17, 2003
7:00 pm Glorietta 1 Cinema Lobby
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R-18)
"FIRST TIME" opens September 17 at Glorietta 1 Cinemas
Jen Rosendahl
Gwen Garci
Myles Hernandez
Kristine Jaca
Hazel Cabrera

Araneta Center

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	WWW.XXX.COM
Ali 2	ASBOOBS
Ali 3	THE MEDALLION
Ali 4	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
Ali 5	SWAT
Ali 6	KALABIT
Ali 7	DADDY DAY CARE

ARANETA COLISEUM	
SEPT 15	NCA 7-STAG DERBY
SEPT 17	NCA 7-STAG DERBY
SEPT 18	UAAP: DLSU VS. UE
SEPT 21	UAAP: FINAL FOUR
SEPT 25	UAAP: FINAL FOUR

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MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	KALABIT
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	ASBOOBS
B	KALABIT
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	PINAY PIE
CINEMA-2	ASBOOBS
CINEMA-3	KALABIT
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SPY KIDS 3D
CINEMA-6	PRINSIPE AT SIRENA
CINEMA-7	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
CINEMA-8	SINBAD
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	DADDY DAY CARE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SWAT
CINEMA-12	MEDALLION
CINEMA-14	WWW.XXX.COM
CINEMA-15	INTERSTATE 60

LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PIÑAS)	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
CINEMA-1	PINAY PIE
CINEMA-2	ITALIAN JOB
CINEMA-4	WWW.XXX.COM

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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Stronger impact on viewers

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

GMA 7's "Xtra, Xtra" show has had quite a bumpy ride on the TV screen. It started out as a daytime magazine program and was doing well enough until the soaps took over the afternoon and evening slots.

"Xtra, Xtra" couldn't cope with the blitzkrieg, despite its inclusion of viewer-friendly features, including an unusual number of bold starlets as guest hosts. So, the program's time slot was moved again.

Recently, however, another change was made when the program was reformatted, re-titled as "Xtra Challenge," and scheduled after the evening newscast on Channel 7.

In its latest revision, the show is now a reality show that tests the same group of contestants for five nights (M-F), using the process of sequential elimination (*ala* "Survivor" and "The Amazing Race") to arrive at the week's winner.

The first week-long challenge required a number of macho men to do so-called woman's work. They were graded on each task, and at the end of each day's labors, sometimes voted a contestant out.

The "*machunurin*" concept was initially bemusing, but it soon got to be too cute for its own good. Some viewers also complained that it implied that women should be "limited" to doing chores at home, and this was OK for them, but not for the machos, who were made to look ludicrous in women's clothes, *bakya*, and such.

In terms of unusual interest value, the choice of the machunurin challenge as the revised program's opening salvo was an astute move. It's just too bad that it wasn't more solidly and creatively worked out.

Another problem that the production will have to solve is the weaker participation in the new format of show hosts Paolo Bediones and Miriam Quiambao. They are supposed to "referee" the contestants' tests, but they are often shunted off to the side as the challenges play themselves out.

In the original show, the hosts were much more active as interviewers, "guinea pigs" and segment producers, so they made a strong impact on viewers. On "Xtra Challenge," however, they play only a supporting role to the contestants, so they can't be expected to be happy about this veritable downgrading.

What's up next for "Xtra Challenge?" Hopefully, another challenge that's similarly attention-calling, but also more physically or mentally engaging. Cuteness is fine, but not for five days in a row.

P.S.: We've since watched a few installments of the show's second challenge, which requires its new batch of contestants to pretend to be *mga taong grasa*.

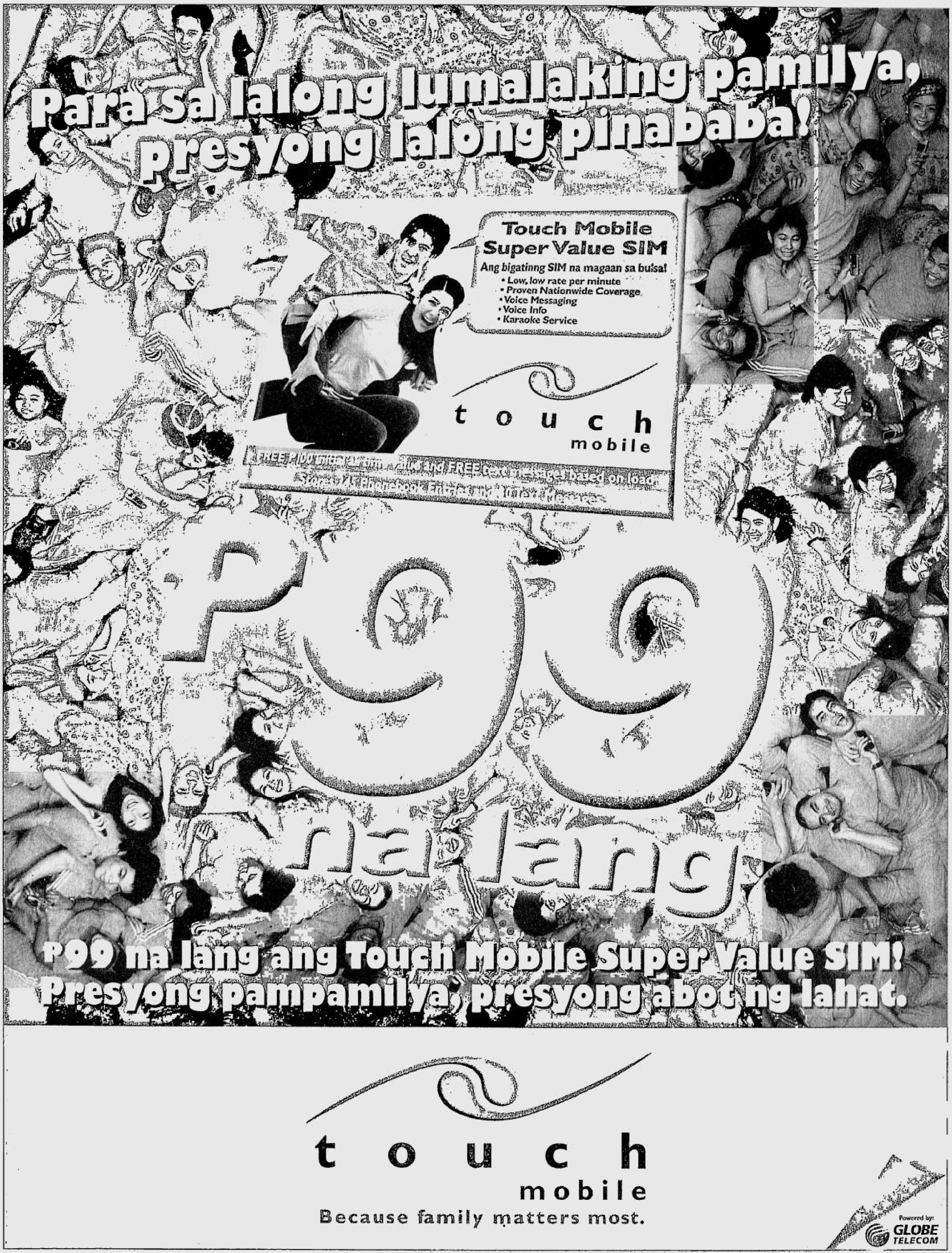
This concept has a stronger impact on viewers, but it's also prone to excesses, like when its female contestant pushed herself so hard last Wednesday that she collapsed and had to take an oxygen break in an ambulance.

Clearly, no TV show is worth a physical liability like this, so what the program's think tank should do is to tone down its sadist-masochist tendencies from here on in.

'Hans Christian Andersen Must Be Filipino'

PETA will stage a preview performance at 3 p.m. on Sept. 20 of "Hans Christian Andersen Must Be Filipino," a play written by Rene

STRONGER/C7



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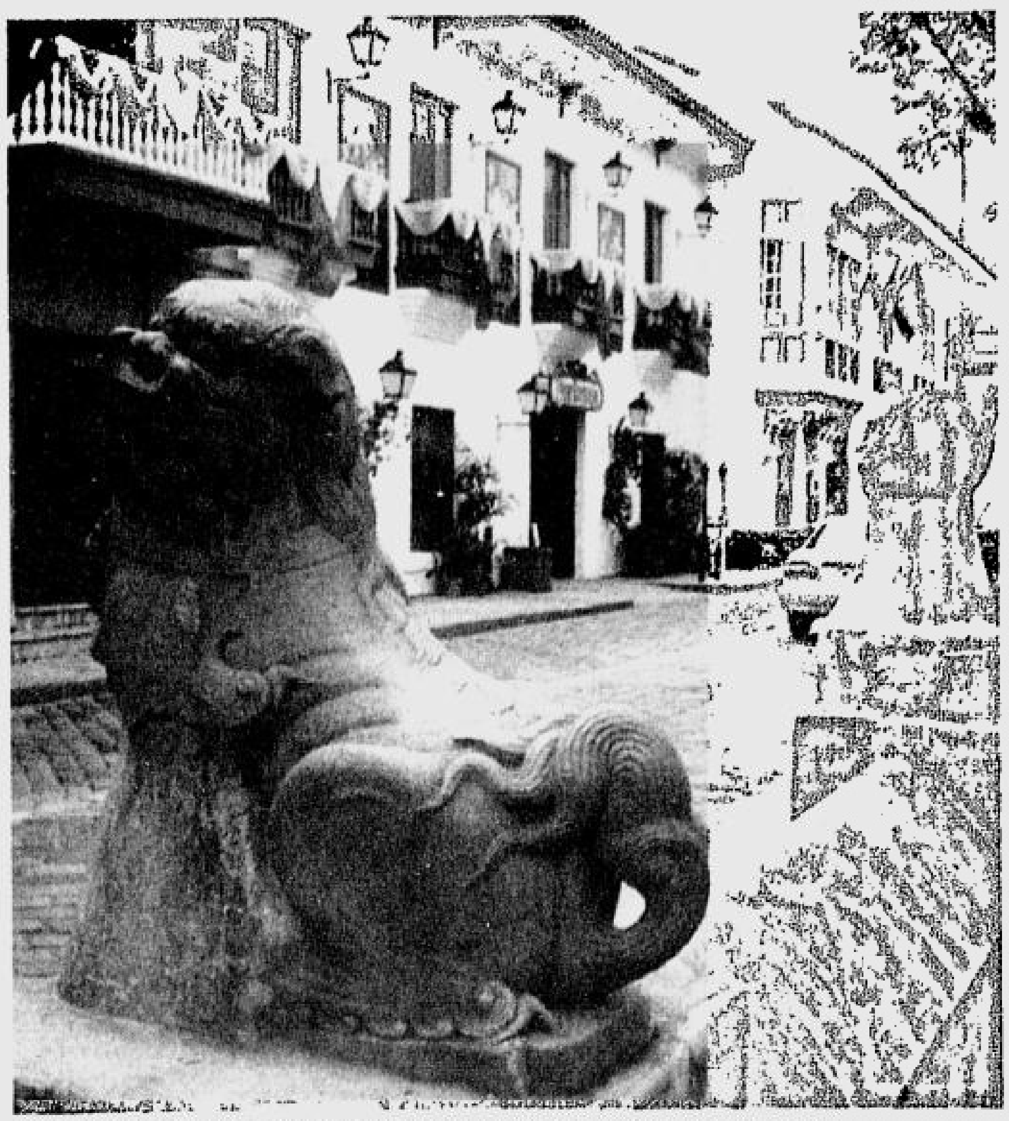
Gising na!



THE FUSION of Filipino, Chinese and Spanish influences underlies the unmistakable identity of Filipino architecture.

A month of heritage awareness

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

SEPTEMBER is National Heritage Month, and the Heritage Conservation Society (HCS), joined by the University of Santo Tomas and Far Eastern University, has launched Heritage Month with a weekend seminar for students, "Here Today, Here Tomorrow."

Organized by HCS board member Kara Garilao with Claire Amador, Rior Santos and Brent Estrella, the seminar gathered students from different Manila universities for an introduction to heritage conservation.

An important part of the activity was a heritage tour of Manila, starting off at the FEU campus where all of the buildings have been recently restored to their original 1930's architecture.

The participants—students majoring in history, literature, law, fine arts, architecture and engineering—discussed a range of issues centering on how heritage forms the basis of national identity. They also discussed the economic value of heritage and how the legal system views heritage. Some discovered that there are professional opportunities for a career in heritage conservation and with much enthusiasm, they joined the network of conservation advocates.

With the University of the Philippines ArkiForum and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, HCS held a lecture series by wood expert Ronald Anthony.

Anthony, who has an MS degree in Wood and Science Technology from Colorado State University, is an international consultant in the industrial, construction, and historic preservation aspects of wood. He was awarded the James Marston Fitch Foundation Award in 2002.

His case studies illustrated different approaches to wood investigation and repair in historic applications around the world, which may have relevance to the humid and tropical Philippine situation.

The audience consisted of professionals in conservation and wood technicians from the Forest Products Research Institute in Los Baños.

At the UP College of Architecture the following day, Anthony spoke more about the theories behind the different applications in the investigation and treatment of wood.

Not solitary

What the HCS-sponsored seminars brought out was the fact that conser-

A MONTH/ D2

Moments worth remembering
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Ensuring Safety in Liposuction

PLASTIC SURGERY UPDATE

Dr. Carlos I. Lasa, Jr.

Many men and women struggle with unwanted fat especially in the abdomen and thighs. At times, even after months of diet and exercise, it is difficult to eliminate fat in these problem areas. With the procedure taking only a few hours, it is no wonder then that liposuction is a very popular cosmetic surgery procedure today.

Although liposuction is generally safe, the discerning patient should consider some factors to ensure safety and minimize the risks involved.

Surgeon Selection

The success of the procedure is largely dependent on the choice of the surgeon. There are no laws in the Philippines that regulate who can perform liposuction. Thus, to avoid unsatisfactory results such as contouring irregularities, it is best to choose a surgeon who has had accredited training in plastic surgery, and special training in body contouring. The patient must also be able to trust the surgeon for proper evaluation and advice.

Liposuction Techniques

Liposuction is usually an outpatient procedure. The incisions made are small and heal quickly. Many problems that occur are due to complications from general anesthesia. These complications are prevented when liposuction is done under local anesthesia with the patient fully awake. This is also important because in some clinics, the patient is unaware that the selected surgeon does not perform the whole procedure.

Ultrasound-assisted liposuction (UAL) is a more recent modification of the liposuction technique. However, the heat generated by ultrasonic energy creates the added risk of burns in the treated areas.

Conclusion

Liposuction is generally safe when the patients are carefully selected, the operating facility is properly equipped, the risks of general anesthesia are avoided and most importantly, the surgeon is properly trained. Having considered these factors, many satisfied liposuction patients have experienced how, in a few hours, liposuction can effectively eliminate the localized fat which seemed almost impossible to get rid of.

Dr. Carlos I. Lasa, Jr. trained in Plastic Surgery at the University of the Philippines-PGH Medical Center, and completed advanced training programs in Cosmetic Surgery in the U.S.A. at the Mt. Sinai Medical Center and the Institute of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery. For more information, please call 374-6092 or 0917-4696945.

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Hooray for heritage

By Allison W. Lopez

AT LAST, we hear good news of restoration and not decimation of the arts—one that lasts for a good whole month at that.

A renewal of our national heritage is the goal of this month's first Filipino Heritage Festival, a long-overdue celebration of the country's rich cultural tapestry.

"Philippine cultural heritage is endangered," says Dr. Jaime Laya, former NCCA chair, and now a member of the festival's ad hoc committee. Not just buildings and monuments, he says, but intangible ones like music, dance and folklore.

Such is the urgency that the committee, including Heritage Conservation Society founding member Bambi Harper, whom Laya referred to as the "moving spirit" behind the celebration, has come up with a string of activities to instill pride in the nation's cultural treasures, beginning with its historical structures such as the Metropolitan Theater.

"There is really a problem with awareness. It is very important that we highlight these landmarks so people will realize their value, that not everything is for sale," says Harper.

Organized by the private sector in cooperation with the National Commission for Culture and Arts, the festival aims to promote, preserve and protect historical sites and cultural traditions.

"Our vision is the continuance of the past and to promote the diverse culture, the vibrant tapestry of the Filipino culture," says NCCA chair Evelyn Pantig.

Lending his invaluable support to the project is Dr. Anton Juan, leading light of Philippine theater, who says that the event is designed to start and sustain a cultural heritage fund to support projects related to cultural preservation.

"NCCA holds as a top priority the preservation of our heritage. Last year, we allotted P116 million for heritage conservation alone, but it's clearly not enough," Pantig admits.

Exhibits

To highlight the beauty and importance of selected heritage sites, they will be used as venues for the festival's eclectic array of events involving the visual and performing arts, fashion, architecture, history, folklore.

The historic Manila Cathedral in Intramuros, see of the Archbishop of Manila, served as venue for the festival's opener, the Misa Pamana, an ecclesiastical Mass. This occasion was marked by the performance of the Misa Adonay, Misa Sto. Niño, Misa San Pedro and Misa of Ryan Cayabyab, all rendered in full regalia by the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra and the San Miguel Master Chorale, under the direction of Juan.

Next, Quiapo Church, or the Basilica of the Black Nazarene, the Golden Mosque, the Neo-Gothic Basilica of San Sebastian and the Miraculous Shrine of the Holy Face will be revisited in the "Lakaran: Quiapo Walking Tour."

Quiapo as a center of spirituality will be relived via these walking tours, which also celebrate the architectural landmarks in the vicinity.

Exhibits fill up the whole month, the most remarkable of which will be the showcase of the masterpieces of National Artists. For the first time, the works of Fernando Amorsolo, Carlos "Botong" Francisco, Vicente Manansala, Napoleon Abueva, Arturo Luz, Cesar Legaspi, Ang Kiukok and other art heavyweights will be shown together in the Luwas exhibit (until Sept. 30 at the NCCA Lobby).

Showing their full support for the festival, Manila's top gallery owners have agreed to share their priced collection of artworks for this one-month exhibit—a definite visual feast.

Bringing closer the richness of indigenous culture to a mall-reared populace, the Gawad sa Manlilikha ng Bayan or Gamaba awardees, men and women who excel in, preserve and promote the traditional arts in their community, will share their native expertise at Rustan's Makati (until Sept. 21).

Imparting skills in weaving and other traditional arts, the Gamaba awardees and their trainees will hold demos and display their intricate finery to the public.

In another display of Filipino ingenuity, legendary couturier Ramon Valera's glamorous designs were showcased during the Valera Retrospective on Sept. 6 at the National Museum. The exhibit paid tribute to the designer who revolutionized Philippine fashion from the golden age of the 1950s and beyond.

Valera, the darling of Manila's haute society for decades and the favorite of the country's First Ladies, lived by the motto "*Cada traje es una obramaestra*" ("Every gown is a masterpiece").

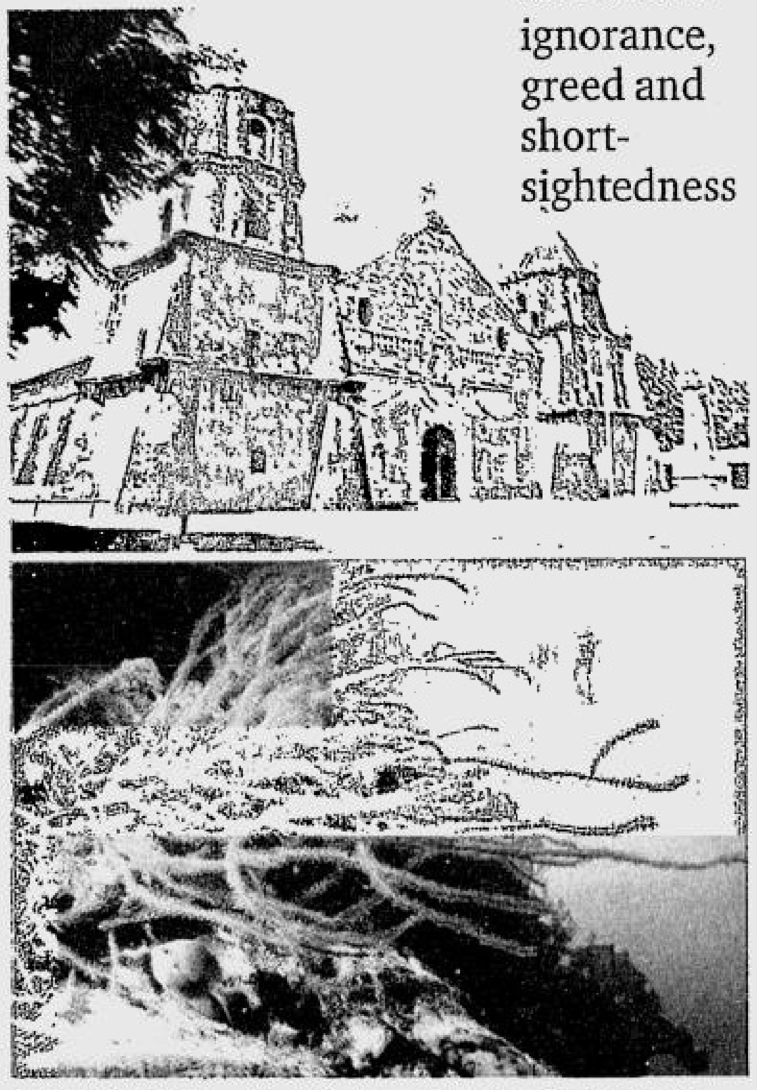
Meanwhile, the country's exotic wonders such as the Banaue Rice Terraces, Vigan Plaza and the Tubbataha Reef and Underground River in Palawan will be captured in vivid images for a photo exhibit featuring the country's Unesco-listed and guarded heritage sites (Sept. 19-25, Greenbelt 3 cinema lobby).

Another exhibit will feature the winning entries of Heritage Month Photo Competition (until Sept. 18, Shangri-La Plaza).

CORDILLERA weavers promote the traditional arts to mallgoers at Rustan's until Sept. 21.

> Better late than never! Finally, a whole month to remind Filipinos what they have irretrievably lost due to ignorance, greed and shortsightedness

THE COMBINED performance of the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra and the Master Chorale at the Misa Pamana marked a strong opening for the festival.



THE MIAG-AO Church in Iloilo (upper photo) and the Tubbataha Reef in Palawan, both declared Unesco World Heritage sites, will be featured in a photo exhibit at the Greenbelt 3 cinema lobby.

Involving the youth

Engaging the youth is also a priority of the NCCA. "We hope to foster in the young a sense of pride," says Pantig.

The open-air bazaar, or the "Tianggehan sa Plaza Miranda," is sure to whet the appetites of many people, with native delicacies, crafts and other products from all over the country to be sold at *tiangge* prices.

The project, in cooperation with the Congressional Spouses Foundation and the City of Manila, will also have a variety of traditional medicinal plants on sale.

Kids, however, will miss what was supposedly a kite-flying activity last May, which will now only be an exhibit due to the rainy weather. Still, the Kite Art Exhibit will prove to be interesting with its uniquely constructed kites bearing images of Unesco-preserved heritage sites and churches in the country.

This will be held together with the photo exhibit of the Unesco-preserved sites.

Theater buffs, on the other hand, can look forward to a performance of Carmina Burana featuring the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra and the Philippine Ballet Theater on Sept. 27, 7 p.m. at Intramuros.

Other notable activities include lectures by Dr. Michael Tan (on herbal medicine, Sept. 20) and Datu Zamzamin Ampatuan (Muslim-Filipino culture and arts, Sept. 20).

Harper, a member of the festival's working committee, acknowledges the precious support given by the private sector, and is optimistic that more corporate groups will support the festival in their cause next year.

"We also want more provinces to be represented in this celebration. We want all groups, minorities or not, to be represented," she says.

Zamboanga joins this year, ending the festival on a colorful note with famous vintas sailing along Manila Bay.

This year's September celebration is somewhat a dry run for the May festivities next year, says Harper. The group hopes to institutionalize the fiesta month as the National Heritage Month.

"I am hoping for something that's more lasting, that Filipinos, even foreigners, can look forward to every year," she says.

For a complete calendar of events, call NCCA at 5272192 locals 503 and 504, e-mail info@ncca.gov.ph or visit their website at www.ncca.gov.ph

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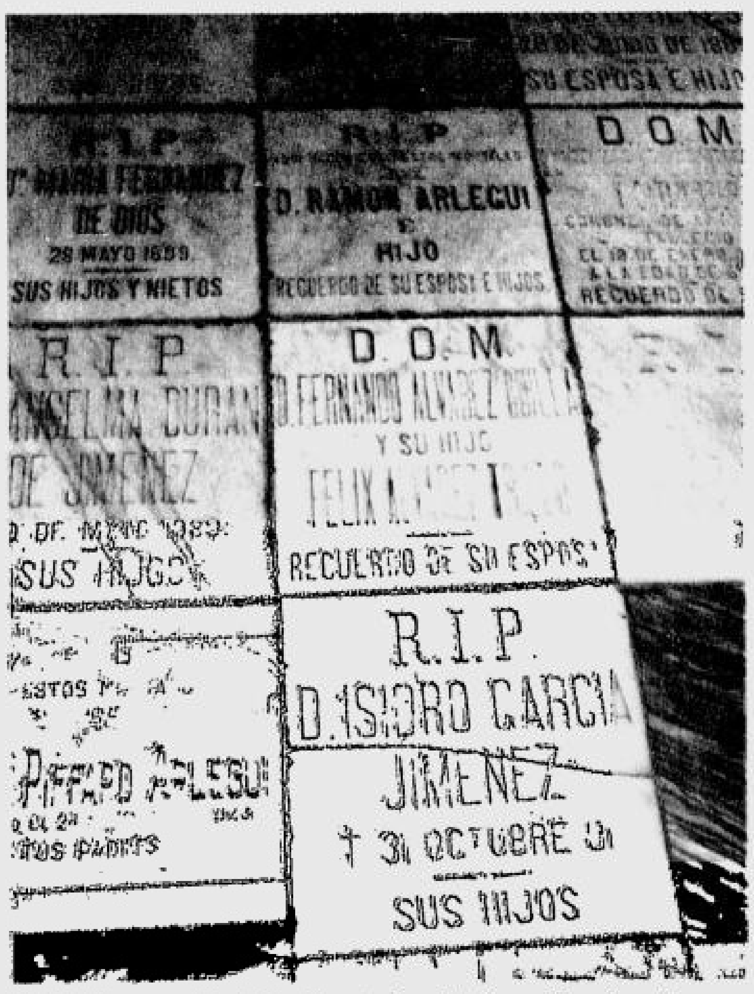
A month of heritage awareness



MARBLE memorials to the departed on the floor of San Agustin Church in Intramuros, one of the World Heritage sites depicted in the video "Philippine World Heritage Sites" to be launched during Heritage Month.

From page D1

vation is not a solitary activity. To preserve heritage, not only is a heritage architect necessary, but the project must be carried out by a team of specialized technicians such as structural engineers, wood technicians, stone and masonry technicians, historians, lawyers, politicians, and many others.

The Heritage Month events include exhibits of urban heritage areas threatened by redevelopment at the Bahay Nakpil in Quiapo, Manila, a photo exhibit of heritage structures at the Cebu Normal School, book sales at the National Library, food festival in Surigao City, and a concert on Philippine church music (the Misa Pamana at the Manila Cathedral).

HCS conducts walking tours of Manila on some weekends (for information and bookings, call 5212239 or 5222497).

Other events to come within the last two weeks of the month are the Philippine Living Treasures Exhibit (at Rustan's Makati), and the Street Dancing Festival (on the 18th in Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat).

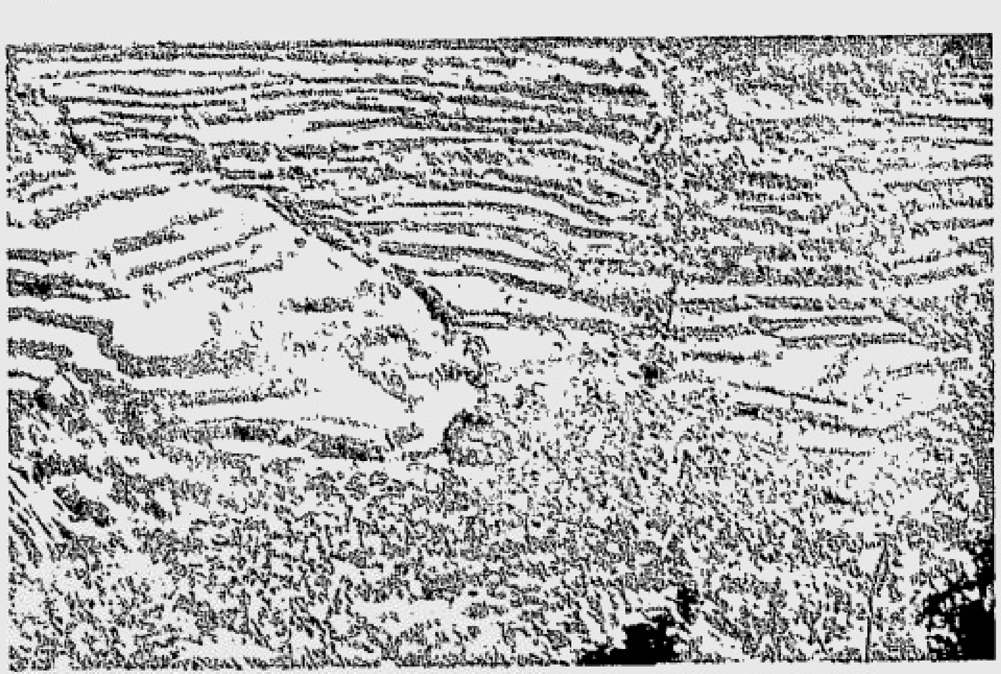
A video directed by Butch Nolasco, "Philippine World Heritage Sites," premieres at 6 p.m. on the 18th at the NCCA Auditorium in Intramuros.

There's more. A photo exhibit introduces the public to the 26 ancient churches of the Spanish colonial period that have been declared National Cultural Treasures (starting on the 19th at the Podium). The heritage of Quiapo will be celebrated on the 20th at the Bahay Nakpil. A congress will discuss the "Illegal Trafficking of Cultural Heritage" on the 24th in Legazpi City. The Balangiga massacre will be commemorated on the 28th in Samar. To cap Heritage Month, vintas from Zamboanga will sail in Manila Bay off the edge of the CCP Complex on the afternoon of the 28th.

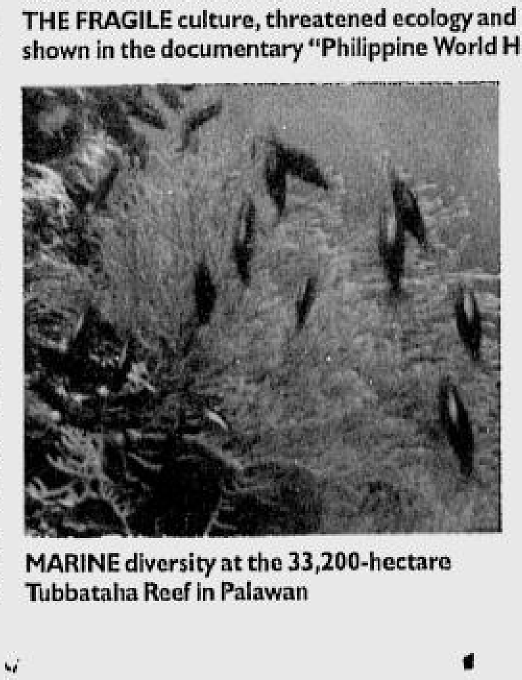
A month of heritage might just be the right thing to make more Filipinos aware of how truly special his culture is and that so much of our heritage—from food to music, architecture to historic towns, and even the vinta—are vanishing at such an alarming rate.

The varied menu of activities opens a new understanding to what it means to be Filipino. Heritage Month signals that we should remain vigilant in preserving our rich heritage as a legacy to our children.

E-mail your comments and feedback to afvillalon@hotmail.com



THE FRAGILE culture, threatened ecology and breathtaking beauty of the rice terraces are shown in the documentary "Philippine World Heritage Sites."



MARINE diversity at the 33,200-hectare Tubbataha Reef in Palawan

Remnants of a beautiful city

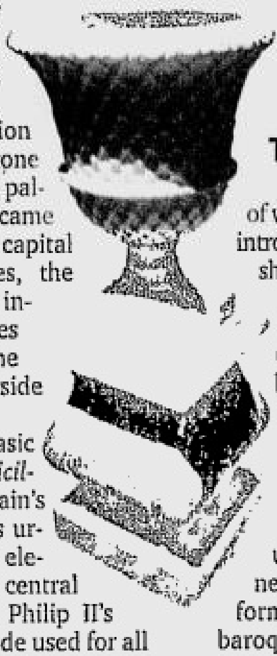
By Constantino C. Tejero

AN AWESOME exhibition is ongoing until Sept. 26 at the Catwalk Galleries of the Metropolitan Museum of Manila. Awesome because it gives the viewer a massive attack of "It could have been."

"City Beautiful?" arrays in six sections a massive collection of maps, photographs, paintings, books and scale models illustrating the Burnham plan for Manila's urban development—what the information sheet calls "the attempts of a rising colonial power to create a modern imperial capital at the turn of the century."

Curated by Paulo Alcazaren and presented in cooperation with the US embassy, the exhibition is the Met's offering for Sangandaan 2003, a cultural commemoration of a century of Philippine-American relations.

The first section, "Manila y Sus Arrabales," traces the eccentric growth of this city from its origins in the settlements of Tundok and Maynilad on opposite banks of Pasig River, through its urbanization by the Spaniards and the coming of the Americans.



Says Alcazaren's annotation posted on the gallery wall: "Stone replaced their original timber palisades, and this walled city became the Intramuros de Manila, a capital city where the ruling classes, the Peninsulares, Insulares and the influential clergy, lived. Enclaves of Chinese, Japanese and the main local population lived outside the walls, or Extramuros.

Post Office, Manila,
photographed thru a shell hole 4-45

THE BOMBS of war could not prevail against it.

"The fortified walls, a basic drainage system and the *cuadricillo* (grid) of streets were Spain's main contributions to Manila's urban form and function. These elements were laid out around a central *plaza mayor*, following King Philip II's Law of the Indies, the urban code used for all Spanish colonies. Many Philippine towns and cities still bear this pattern.

"Toward the end of Spanish rule, the city's population reached 200,000. Urbanization spilled over the old walls and into the various *arrabales* (suburbs)—Binondo, San Nicolas, Quiapo, San Miguel, Paco, Ermita and Malate. Eventually the Philippine Revolution halted the city's growth. This was the Manila that the Americans claimed in late 1898 as the capital of their emerging empire."

Tropical Venice

To put shape to the city after the chaos of war and revolution, the new colonizers introduced City Beautiful, a movement shaping American cities at that time.

The next section, "Daniel Burnham and City Planning," introduces the top American architect and urban planner of his day, and how his achievements extended to as far as Canberra and New Delhi.

He was the leading light of the City Beautiful Movement, whose hallmarks were elegance and monumentality (manifested in "grand neoclassic-style complexes laid out in a formal fashion, organization based on baroque axes, and liberal use of landmarks and monuments").

> What remain of the emerging empire are dilapidated neoclassical buildings, broken bridges, traffic-choked boulevards

Burnham designed skyscrapers and civic complexes, including the movement's first landmark, the Chicago Columbian Exposition in 1893, "a temporary city of ornate pavilions." On a larger scale, he designed the cities of San Francisco, Cleveland, Washington, D.C.

The section "Manila, a City Beautiful" depicts the period when Burnham came to the Philippines to prepare plans for Manila and the new hill station of Baguio, at the same time that he was planning San Francisco.

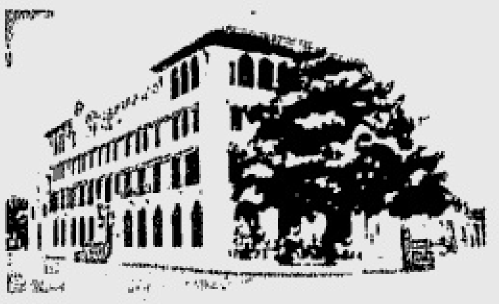
Says the annotation: "Both the San Francisco and Manila plans were grand layouts crisscrossed by wide boulevards and large open spaces. Both had central civic complexes and were oriented out to scenic bays. Manila was unique, however, in that Burnham conserves the historic district of Intramuros. Burnham also saw Pasig River and its many tributaries, or *esteros*, as elements giving Manila the flavor of a tropical Venice."

Classic components

The section includes the components of the Burnham plan, with five directions outlined: development of the waterfront and the location of parks and parkways so as to give adequate opportunities for recreation to every quarter in the city; establishment of a street system, which would secure direct and easy communication from every part of the city, to every other sector or district; location of building sites for various activities; development of waterways for transportation; provision of summer resorts.

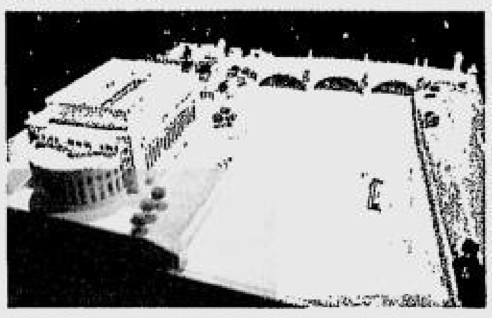
Continues the annotation: "The plan included all elements of a classic City Beautiful plan. It had a central civic core of government buildings arranged in a formal pattern around a rectangular mall, differing from the Spanish Law of the Indies. The orientation of the mall was toward the water.

"To highlight the view of Manila Bay, Burnham had the area in front of the old Luneta extended 1,000 ft., and a hotel and various clubs were proposed around this. Radiating from this central core were a series of boulevards laid over an efficient street system and a series of large parks connected by parkways to provide breathing space for the city."



ARMY and Navy YMCA, Manila

LUNETA Hotel



SCALE model of the Manila Post Office and Jones Bridge

In the exhibit, this is clearly illustrated by sketches and scale models. One can see how successive city administrations followed, modified or ignored the Burnham plan.

So the city just grew and grew every which way it chose. Perhaps Filipinos are just too colorful and boisterous to be contained in a plan?

This is one exhibit all Manileños, especially government officials, must see and marvel at how a foreigner had tried to make life for them comfortable and gracious, and weep over what they are doing to this city that they have now.

'Zero In' exhibit at Lopez and Ateneo

"ZERO In: Skin Surface Essence," a unique exhibit by a consortium of museums, has opened at the Lopez Memorial Museum. The other participants are the Ayala Museum, the Ateneo Gallery and the Museo Pambata.

The Ateneo portion will open on Sept. 19 and will feature a retrospective exhibit of works by the late Nena Saguil, the reclusive artist who worked and died in Paris.

The Lopez show is subtitled "Essence and Sympathies" and showcases Filipino artists who left the country to find work or study with the masters. In exile, their memories of home appear in landscapes which are not, in the words of one artist, "transliteration of reality" but abstractions, fantasies or romanticized versions.

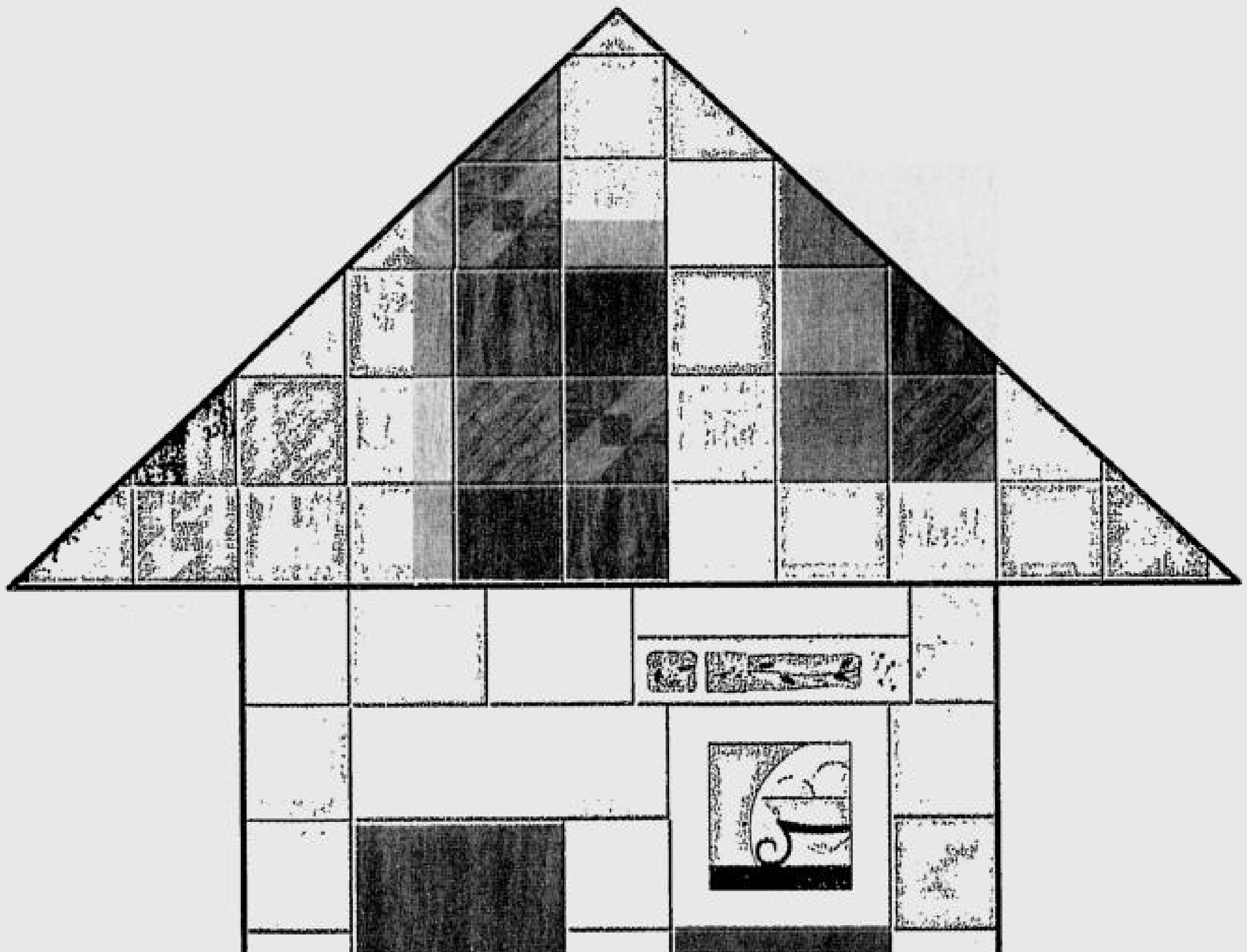
The show features the museum's premier collection of works by 19th-century Philippine masters Juan Luna and Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo, as well as its modern art collection—Pacita Abad, Fedrico Alcuaz, Alfonso Ossorio, Leon Pacunayen, Juvenal Sanso, Macario Vitalis and Fernando Zobel.

Three artists who are much recognized internationally have also been invited to undertake projects under the aegis of the museum–Lani Maestro, David Medalla and Manuel Ocampo.

The exhibit will run until March 15. The Lopez Museum is at the Benpres Bldg., Pasig City. Call 6312417.

Correction

IN THE ARTICLE "Full Moon Trilogy" by Sylvia Mayuga, the illustrative artwork should have been credited to D.A. Marcelo, not Nonoy Marcelo.



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Esquillo at West, 'Ukay-ukay' at Hiraya, Bulacan artists at Rustan's, Martinez at GSIS

VISUAL ARTS

ALFRED Esquillo's new exhibit, "Tragicomedy," which opens on Sept. 18 at the West Gallery in Megamall, features large ultra-realist works that focus on the Filipino's attempt to survive amid the toughest conditions. The works of "staged reality" show the continuing drama of living in the Philippines. A product of the UST College of Fine Arts and Design, Esquillo won the Phillip Morris Asian grand prize. Call 6341284.

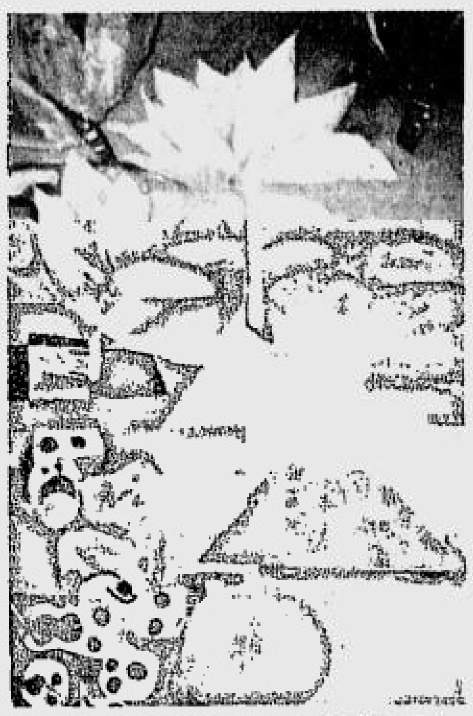
HIRAYA Gallery (530 UN Avenue, Ermita, Manila) presents the group show, "Ukay-ukay," until Sept. 20. Featured are new works in various mediums by Leonardo Aguinaldo, Valeria Cavestany, Mario de Rivera, Fernando Escora, Ige Ramos and Francisco Pellicer Viri. Call 5233331.

LAKAN Sining ng Bulacan is holding the exhibit, "Our Very Own... Fiesta Bulakeña," until Sept. 18 at the 6/F of Rustan's Makati in connection with the 105th anniversary of the Malolos Congress. Participating artists are Jose Joya, Malang, Al Perez, Fil Delacruz, Philip Victor, Jose Marasigan, Danny Pangan, Salvador Ching, Godofredo Reyes, Rex Tatlonghari, and several others.

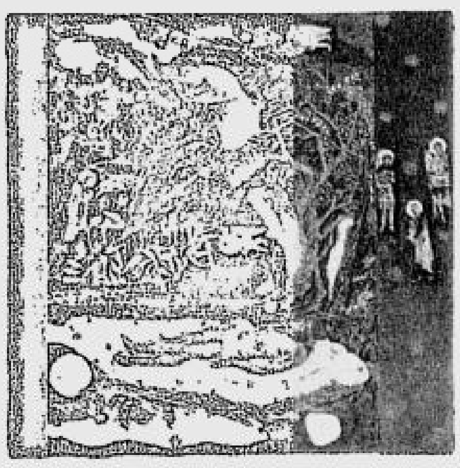
THE GSIS Museum is holding the exhibit of recent works of the award-winning Santiago Martinez at its theater gallery hallway (GSIS Financial Center, Pasay City). The works reveal the continuing evolution of an artist known for his sterling figures and colors. Show runs until the 30th. Call 0919-7885381.

KULAY Diwa Art Galleries presents the paintings, installation and drawings of Leslie de Chavez at the White, Black and Green rooms. The show will run on Sept. 14-Oct. 8 at 25 Lopez Ave., Lopez Village, Sucat, Parañaque.

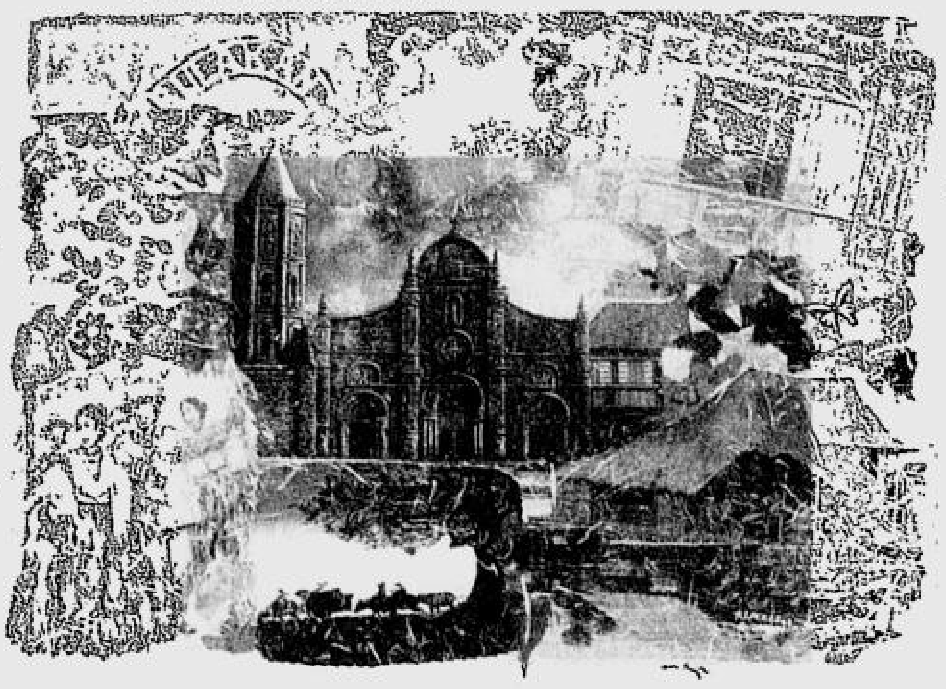
SALVADOR "Buddy" Cabrera Jr. is holding "Reality to Zen: From Figures to Abstract" at the Philippine Institute of Architects (National Office and Professional Development Center, 65 East Capitol Drive, Kapitolyo, Pasig City). Training under his uncle Bencab, Cabrera has done paintings in serene light colors. Call 634-2512.



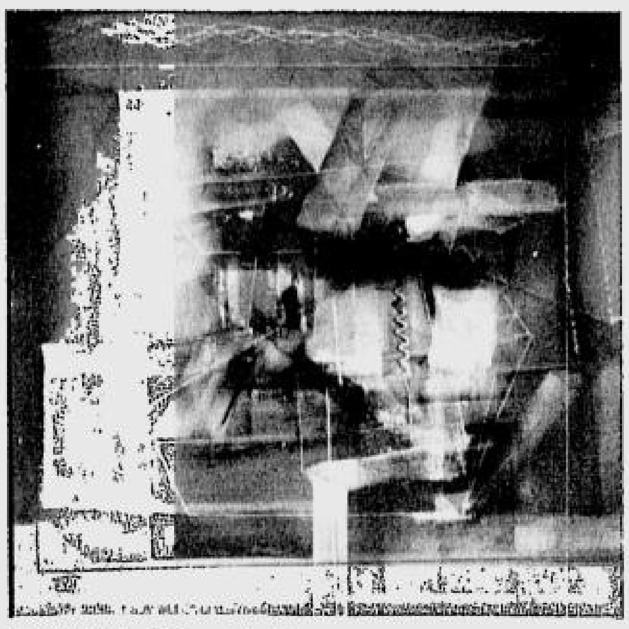
"STEADFAST," by Santiago Martinez, at GSIS Museum



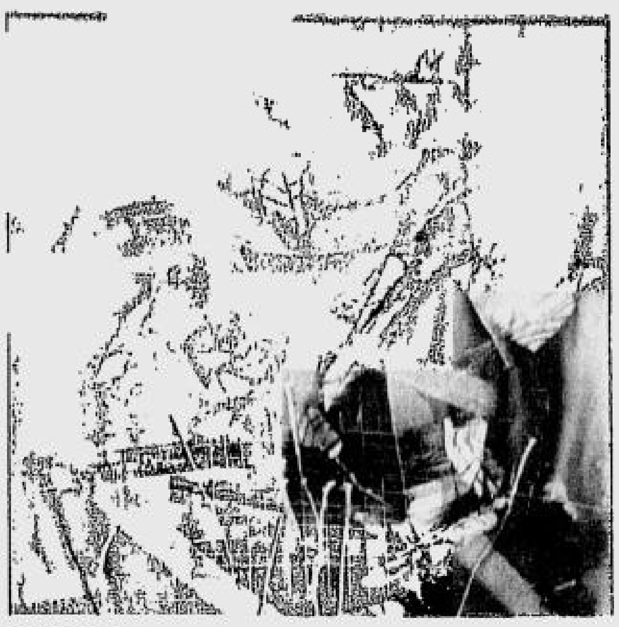
"DOLORES," acrylic, oil, modeling paste and photo transfers, by Mario de Rivera, at Hiraya



"FIESTA Bulakeña" by Al Perez, at Rustan's Makati



"FESTIVAL of Mountains"



"SHANGI'S Season"

Continuing conquest of color

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

LIKE his obsessive fascination with underwater life, Rafael Cusi has continually mined watercolor as the wellspring of the total artistic process. Drawing upon the medium's amalgam of strength and seduction, he has evolved through many years of unrelenting pursuit of artistic identity, a task that, coupled with his unwavering experimentation and innovation, has profoundly enriched his mastery of the water-based medium.

Now regarded as one of the foremost proponents of aquarelle in the country, Cusi amply proves what more could be achieved in the medium in "Shangi, A Celebration," which also marks the opening of the newest art gallery, Ricco-Renzo (LRI Business Plaza, 210 N. Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati City).

The two-level gallery cum-coffee shop has barely enough room to mount the artist's large-scale works, a number of which have been ingeniously and rather precariously made to hang with heavy-duty contraptions in unlikely back-to-back fashion. Despite the lack of space, the café's minimalist interiors have taken on a magical, iridescent glow, courtesy of Cusi's trademark colors.

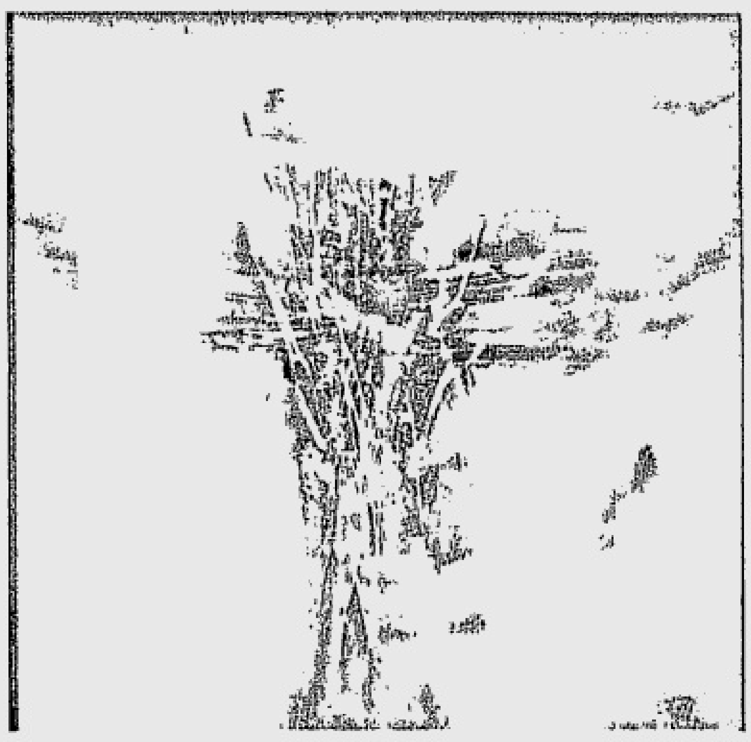
The cryptic word *shangi* means "mountain" in Mindoro. True to his roots, the artist has time and again returned to Bongabon, Oriental Mindoro, his birthplace, for inspiration.

As a young man there, he painted houses and festival floats. He eventually moved to Manila as a fine arts scholar at the Philippine Women's University. In the 1980 Art Association of the Philippines' Annual, his watercolor painting won first prize.

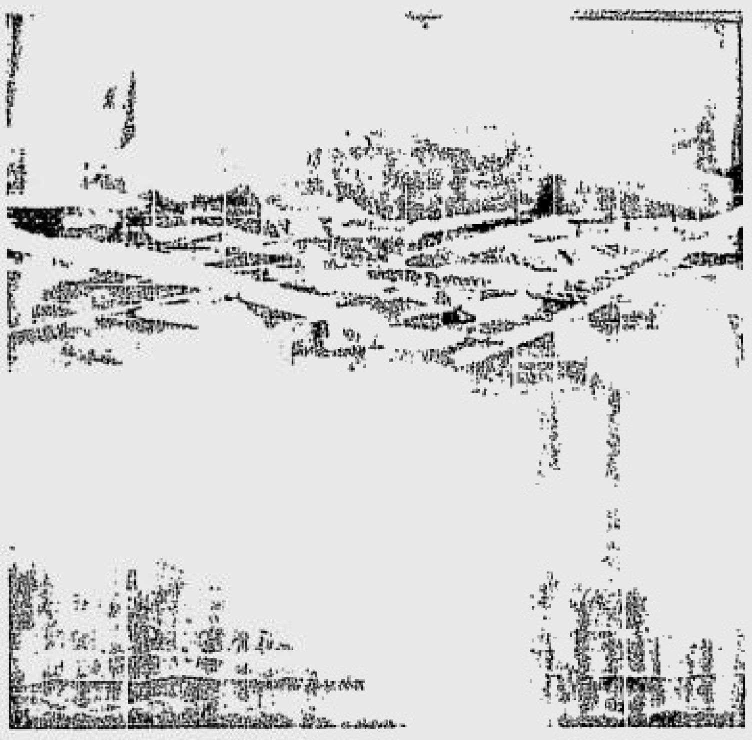
Through the years, Cusi has endowed the magic of watercolor to his "Ethnic," "Zen Ballien," "Abstract," "Black and White Nudes," "Underwater" and "Seascape" series.

In 2001, he journeyed to Milan, Italy, where he was conferred an award by the Centro Estudi Europeo Ambiente Arte Associazone for his "Underwater" series, which had earlier been captured in a glossy coffee-table book, "The Philippine Coral Reefs."

Last year, he exhibited in four cities in Spain, including a sell-out show in Madrid's Museo de Antropologica, located across the Prado Museum.



"TREES"



"HYMN of the Mountains"

Celebration

In the current show, Cusi celebrates the changing climes and seasons as evoked by the leaping colors of Shangi, the pristine mountain fastness that is a sanctuary to the harried soul.

From the spare foliage in "Symphony II," with its spontaneous burst of blooms, to the effusive cornucopia of colors in "Shangi's Bloom," the dominant technique is transparent and cubist, accented by fine lines crisscrossing one another.

Cusi's palette sense remains as unpredictable as the weather. Take the richly layered, colorfully flamboyant "Festival of the Mountain." Cusi's emblematic colors defy facile distinctions as the artist uses his brush and paint in wild abandon. The allusion, of course, is on the deep-blue virginal mountain lairs that still exist in his province but are on the verge of extinction in other places. What is particularly admirable with Cusi is his chosen tone in pitching for the environment, which, unlike other artists, he prefers to raise to the level of allegory.

The "Black and White" series likewise makes its comeback in the show, with a pair of watercolors sparingly titled "Lily Pond." These relatively smaller works are striking in their composition, their universe of aqueous life in perpetual motion, like a symphonic piece with well-placed movements.

I am told the piece was executed in a characteristic frenzied moment of inspiration while the artist was ruminating at the Orchidarium in the confines of Rizal Park, his favorite sanctuary in the urban jungle.

Easily the most striking work by Cusi is "Portrait of an Ethnic," which does not resemble any of the works in both image and meaning. The piece is dynamically conceived and executed, a prismatic inscape that radiates whirling energy of its own. The seemingly circular configuration, while a takeoff of Cusi's ethnic identity, is a celebration of indigenous roots, of an artist who has journeyed about, but always returns home to family and kin.

E-mail the author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com

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STORY ON PAGE E2

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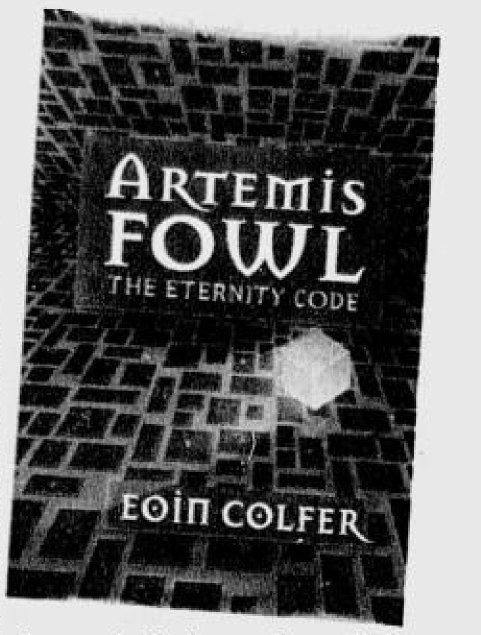
Great 'Fowl' play

"Artemis Fowl"
By Eoin Colfer
Viking, London,
2001, 280 pages

"Artemis Fowl: The Arctic Incident"
Hyperion Books for Children, New York,
2002, 277 pages

"Artemis Fowl: The Eternity Code"
Hyperion Books for Children, New York,
2003, 309 pages

By Ruel S. De Vera



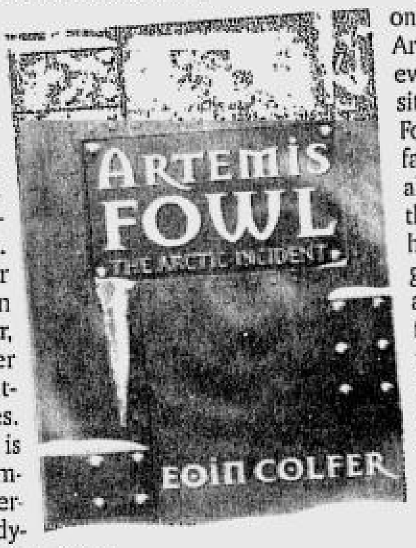
WARNING: Artemis Fowl the Second possesses the world's most cunning criminal mind. He is decisive, devious and willing to take unimaginable risks to get what he wants. He is also only 12 years old.

REVIEW

Or at least he is at the beginning of ex-school teacher Eoin Colfer's triumvirate of books. In 2001's "Artemis Fowl," readers are introduced to this very unique anti-hero, a gentlemanly crook who wants to hoodwink fairies—yes, you read that right—out of their gold. Seems like a fairly straightforward plot for a children's book, doesn't it?

But the Artemis Fowl trilogy is anything but your usual books about heists. For one thing, the fairies Colfer introduces aren't the wee, wispy folks you may be familiar with. They call themselves simply The People and utilize an ingenious combination of technology and magic to keep themselves hidden from the eyes of Mud People (us humans). The Leprechauns of lore, for example, turn out to be members of LEPrecon, or Lower Element Police Recon, an elite and heavily armed group of fairy operatives.

Obviously, references to such magical elements bring easy comparison to the Harry Potter series. But the two lines, aside from a preoccupation with magic, are worlds apart. If anything, the innovative action of Colfer's Fowl trilogy has been overshadowed by the bludger-busting success of the Potter franchise. And that's a shame because Artemis Fowl's travails make for an extremely appealing, fast-paced adventure for readers of all ages.



All this goes back to Fowl himself. Let us begin with "Artemis Fowl," which introduces the fascinating cast and sets up the parameters of Colfer's world. His father, the former criminal brain Artemis Fowl Senior, has gone missing after an attempt to legitimize their businesses. His mother Angeline is in despair. Now accompanied by his dangerous and devoted bodyguard Butler, Artemis concocts an audacious plot to get the fairies' gold to prop their enterprises up—and continue the search for his father.

But standing his way is the LEPRecon's tempestuous Captain Holly Short. The capable but headstrong operative is captured and held hostage by Fowl. But she can more than manage for herself. Add to the mix her determined superior, Commander Root, techie centaur Foaly and the disgusting effective dwarf digger Mulch Diggums and you have all the trouble you can handle.

Colfer has quite a few tricks up his own sleeve. The lines between enemies and allies blur as Fowl displays a surprising maturity to go with his superior intellect. After all, his real weapons aren't the clever gadgets he invents, but the incredible plans he concocts. And while readers may quibble with his methods, they will be drawn by the apparent murkiness of his intent. Is he really the cold-blooded crook he appears to be?

The events of the second book, last year's "The Arctic Incident," throw even more light unto that situation. In this sequel, Fowl discovers that his father might indeed be alive, but he will need the fairies' help to rescue him. Meanwhile, the goblins suddenly rise up and try to take over the fairies' realm. Not only must Root and Short protect their land, but they must also uncover a conspiracy from within the LEP itself.

The final gambit occurs in 2003's "The Eternity Code," in which Artemis' penchant for innovation gets him into hot water when a ruthless and even more crooked billionaire steals one of Fowl's gadgets—a device that could blow the fairies' cover. Now Butler has seemingly been killed and it is up to that uneasy alliance between fairies (Root and Short) and Mud Men (Fowl and Butler's wrestling-addicted sister Juliet) to save the fairies' very way of life. Whew.

Colfer's prose is snappy and clever, keeping the readers enchanted. He writes confidently, with humor and an eye toward trickery. His spare but smart depiction of the fairy realm is more Piers Anthony than J.R.R. Tolkien, more sci-fi than fantasy. The books are so breezy and compact that readers will find themselves moving from one book to the next the way a fairy rides the hotshot. Colfer's (and ergo Artemis') plots are inventive and will keep readers in suspense until the entire story has unfolded—or so you may think. In a twist reminiscent of recent mind-bender "The Da Vinci Code" by Dan Brown, Colfer employs puzzles within the books (outside and inside) that require a secret code to unlock their secrets. Think of it as Fowl's version of a surprise inside the Crackerjack box.

Plus there are enough subplots to fill a Swiss bank account, maybe even Fowl's. Will Fowl the Second find Fowl Senior alive? Will Fowl succeed in restoring his family's lost fortune? Can the Recon defend their civilization from both the Goblins and the Mud People? And what is really going on inside that brilliantly twisted brain of Artemis Fowl? Is he a threat or an asset to The People? What is he really after?

The characters will win you over—from the loyal Bulter siblings, the nerdy coolness of Foaly, the grubby schemes of Mulch. But the winning combination here is that between the good-hearted but also ready-to-go Holly Short and the enigmatic but well-intentioned Artemis Fowl. Their relationship, beginning with acrimony and distrust before evolving into trust and affection, is right at the heart of this book. Fowl, in particular, makes for such an irresistible protagonist (antagonist?) that readers will forget they're actually rooting for a criminal genius.

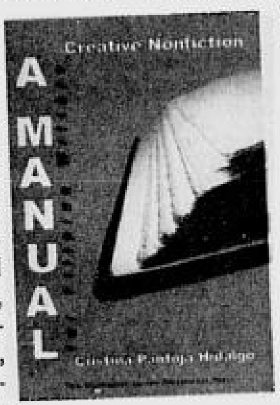
There will undoubtedly be debates as to whether Colfer's Fowl books are better than J. K. Rowling's Potter tomes. The truth is, they're just truly different creatures and best enjoyed on their merits. Whether Muggle or magical, Mud People or fairy, these are vividly entrancing thrillers to be savored up to the very last page.

And the merits of Colfer's Fowl trilogy are manifold. There's no word yet whether if and when Eoin Colfer intends to conjure up another Fowl adventure, but it would be a mighty shame if we have seen the last of our teenaged superthief. Somehow, I doubt it. But for now, the three books make for a satisfying triangle of intrigue and action as well as a riveting ongoing character study of master criminal Artemis Fowl. All right, troops? Neutrino weapons on standby, wing motors starting, shield up. Let's go see what we can do about this Artemis Fowl. But be careful—he's a very tricky human.

Available from National Bookstore and PowerBooks.

Non-fiction manual and reader now out

THE UP Press has released "Creative Nonfiction: A Manual for Filipino Writers" and its companion volume, "Creative Nonfiction: A Reader," both by Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo



A first in the country, the twin volumes are designed for teachers and students of creative writing who are interested in the types of creative nonfiction— the personal essay, the travel narrative, the profile, biography, family history, new journalism, etc. But they should also be useful to anyone who wishes to teach himself the craft, being full of examples, all taken from Filipino writers, and do-it-yourself exercises. They provide entertaining reading for nonwriters as well.

The "Manual" also contains an overview of creative nonfiction in the country, a discussion of the major strategies and a short summary of theories about the genre. In the "Reader," Hidalgo, herself a much-awarded writer of both nonfiction and fiction, has gathered some of the best samples of Philippine writing in the genre. The "Reader" also includes Nick Joaquin's landmark Ramon Magsaysay lecture, "Journalism Versus Literature," in which he claims that "the literary snob's disdaining of journalism is a thing of the past, now that the greatest literary artists are producing reportage."

Hidalgo is in charge of the Creative Writing Program of the University of the Philippines and is the present director of the UP Press.

The "Manual" and the "Reader" are available at the UP Press Bookstore in the UP Diliman campus and and other bookstores.

Antonio Hidalgo's book of plays released

Antonio A. Hidalgo
FOUR PLAYS
PAI

MILFLORES Publishing Inc. has released "Four Plays/Apat na Dula," the first book of plays by award-winning bilingual fictionist Antonio A. Hidalgo. Two of the plays are in English and the other two are in Filipino.

In these plays, the author touches the very heart of what defines the Filipino condition by creating a rich variety of vivid characters drawn from the highest and lowest levels of our society. He molds them with a deep understanding of the nuances of human motivation and fleshes them out with a lively, and at the same time, ribald humor.

His highly original plots, at once elegantly simple and suffused with inevitable complications, effectively render the inherent drama in our lives through a powerful style that does not blink. And, almost imperceptibly, he imbues each play with a subtle social and political dimension that reflects his mature world view that was formed over a lifetime of important and interesting work in the Philippines and abroad.

The author has won a number of prizes for his fiction in the N.V.M. Gonzalez, Philippines Free Press and Palanca Awards. He was in the Cabinet of President Fidel V. Ramos as secretary general of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council. He served for 15 years in several countries abroad as a United Nations Children's Fund official.

Call 7216431 or 7213748. E-mail tony@email.com.ph

Cavite writers congress formed

CAVITE Gov. Erineo Maliksi will address the founding congress of the Cavite Young Writers Association on Sept. 20 at the Kalipayan Resort on Aguinaldo Highway, Dasmariñas, Cavite.

This will be the first time young writers from the tertiary and secondary schools in the province will gather to continue the writing tradition started by revolutionary writers Tomas Tirona (Imus) and Pascual Poblete (Naic), as well as mainstream Tagalog poets like Alejandro Abadilla (Rosario), Teo Baylen (Cavite City), David Mamaril (Noveleta) and C.C. Marquez (Ternate).

Call Earl at 0916-3479172, Joanna at 0918-7870042 or the Cavite Studies Center (046) 4164531 local 3141.

Book on historic RP-Spain ties set to be launched today

THE NATIONAL Historical Institute, in coordination with the Inter-Agency Committee of the Philippine-Spanish Friendship Day, will formally launch the book "Pacto de Sangre" today at 4 p.m. at the 2/F lobby of the National Historical Institute on T.M. Kalaw Street, Ermita, Manila.

The book, edited by National Artist Virgilio Almario, highlights the great Spanish virtues that Filipinos have inherited from three centuries of Spanish rule. It commemorates the "sandugo" between Magellan and Legazpi and Filipinos.

Iligan writers clinic: Writing from the fringes

By Germelina Laocorte
Contributor

A WAR was still raging at the heart of Mindanao when the panel of acclaimed writers and critics and 14 writing fellows from all over the country gathered at the porch of the Mindanao State University campus guesthouse in Naawan, Misamis Oriental for the last day of the 10th Iligan National Writers Workshop (INWW).

They left Iligan City's Elena Tower Inn because of a brownout. Naawan is one of the coastal towns of Misamis Oriental, where MSU runs a fisheries school, just a few minutes' ride from Iligan City.

At lunch break, the fellows heard Muslim chants, probably from a nearby mosque; and on afternoon breaks, they stretched and walked under the trees, straining their ears for the distant sounds of war. But all they heard were the waves splashing.

At a manuscript's hour on the porch of Naawan's guesthouse, the poet Merlie Alunan was dissecting a Cebuano poem, but the arrival of a bag of luscious *macopa* forced her to stop the session.

Macopa, which reminded Alunan of her childhood, is getting scarce these days—like poetry, a language rarely spoken.

Days ago, at the MSU-IIT Mini-theater, playwright Isagani R. Cruz, the keynote speaker, had talked about writers being "guardians of language."

"When a language dies," he said, "it is the fault solely of writers."

Looking every inch a sultan in a Maranao cap, a purple polo and a *malong* wrapped around his waist, the former undersecretary of education and award-winning playwright from De La Salle University (who is in reality an honorary sultan of Ramain), urged writers from the fringes to write vigorously, "to write more and to write well," and to publish and write "until the writing comes out of your ears."

Low priority

So, the rite of passage that is the Iligan workshop marked its 10th incarnation this year, but not without a struggle, says Christine Godinez-Ortega, workshop director.

Every year for the last 10 years, funding and logistics problems have hounded the workshop. Fellows who had gone to one always thought they were attending the very last of the fabled workshop.

The government did provide funds this year through the National Commission on Culture and the Arts, "but nothing is really enough," says Godinez-Ortega, "considering that culture and the arts take low priority in the scheme of things."

The MSU Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension under the late Dr. Jimmy Y. Balacuit had also supported the project, but this was downscaled to mere administrative support, which in the last two years meant a working staff and free use of workshop venues and vehicles.

After Dr. Balacuit passed away, his widow, Rosalinda, put up the Jimmy Balacuit Literary Awards to honor the most promising fellows at the annual Iligan workshop.

"We are thankful [for whatever support we get], literature being considered less practical than science and technology," says Godinez-Ortega.

For the decade it's been around, the Iligan workshop has done for Mindanao what the Dumaguete and the UP national writers workshops have been doing for Visayas and Luzon: Give support to aspiring new writers.

The list of Iligan fellows now includes such illustrious names in Philippine literature as Jose Neil Garcia, Charlson Ong, Ruel de Vera, Ralph Galan, Rebecca Añonuevo, and Prof. German Gervacio, a panelist in this year's workshop. Over a hundred other writers have gone through the workshop.

Added to the list are this year's fellows: Ava Vivian Gonzales, BJ Patino, Ricardo Fernando III and Michael Francis Andrada from Luzon; Janis Claire Salvacion, Voltaire Oyzon, Jay Malaga, Haidee Emmie Palapar and Lorenzo Ninal from the Visayas; and John Bengan, Jo Vita Ann Aballanosa, Percelindo Dingding, Oscar Zerna and this writer from Mindanao.

The fellow for Chavacano fiction, Jose Genaro-Yap Aizon from Zamboanga City, unfortunately failed to make it.

Unforgiving

As usual, this year's panel was ruthless and unforgiving in their appraisal of workshop output. They included the keynote speaker; Palanca hall of famer Leoncio Deriada of UP-Visayas-Iloilo, who is also the workshop's regular panelist from the region; Dr. Rosario Lucero of UP-Diliman; Merlie Alunan from UP-Visayas-Tacloban; Timothy Montes of UP-Mindanao in Davao; and resident panelists Dr. Jaime An Lim and professors Godinez-Ortega, Steven Patrick Fernandez and Gervacio.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

The Iligan workshop has helped put Mindanao on the literary map

The Iligan workshop, considered one of the country's major literary workshops, has put Mindanao on the country's literary map. The island is seen as the "other" in the country's literary soul.

It is where, as Dr. Lucero put it, an "irony of global proportions" happens: The site of a people's fierce resistance against Hispanic and American rule, yet also the site of wars, massacres, pillaging and unspeakable crimes that still happen up to this day.

Lucero urged writers to mine Mindanao's epic "Ulahingan," a treasure trove of Mindanao myths and history, to explain the roots of the island's current conflict.

"But writers write no matter what," Godinez-Ortega said, referring to writers writing in the midst of war, and with or without funding support. "Poets write about war and peace. If there's more pain and suffering, writers write more, although unlike the journalists in this country, poets are rarely recognized."

Unlike the other two workshops, Iligan allots equal slots for writers from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, which, in Godinez-Ortega's own words, "levels the playing field among aspiring writers from the South, who are perceived to be more laid-back compared to their counterparts in Luzon."

The works of writing fellows are compiled after each workshop and published in book form, together with commentaries, to become (hopefully) a useful resource material for future literary scholars.

As writer Jaime An Lim said, the workshop may not necessarily create writers, but it is where writers begin to belong to their own community. It is in the writers' workshop where alliances—literary or not—are forged, sometimes for a lifetime.

Madrileña donates textbooks to Sitio Talaga pupils

By Butch Hernandez
Contributor

PRINCIPAL Bayani Paz distributes textbooks donated by Carol Aboitiz to pupils of Sitio Talaga Elementary School Annex.

TEACHERS receive brand new teacher's manuals also from Carol Aboitiz.

PUPILS in public elementary schools should have five textbooks—one for each subject in the Basic Education Curriculum.

About a month ago, Education Undersecretary Mike Luz announced that the delivery schedule for 35 million textbooks was on track, with the third batch of books on its way this month.

Unfortunately, there are just not enough textbooks to go around. Why? Simple arithmetic would give us the answer.

There are about 12 million grade-school pupils and five million high-school students in 40,000 public schools today. For grade school alone, five books per pupil would mean about 60 million books.

It is quite common to find public-school pupils in places like Makati and Marikina with complete sets of textbooks, both new and used, while entire grades in places as close as Morong, Rizal, have no books at all.

Carol Aboitiz of Madrid, Spain, joined the Education Revolution to help pupils in public schools any way she could.

Last week, she donated P50,000 worth of textbooks for 100 pupils of Sitio Talaga Elementary School in Morong, Rizal. Thanks to Carol, every pupil from Grade 1-4 now has a complete set of textbooks.

This may seem like the proverbial drop in the bucket, but many others are replicating Carol's selfless gesture for public schools throughout the country, pushing the Education Revolution ever onward.

Firm adopts schools

The CBK Power Company operates and manages the rehabilitated 350 megawatt Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan I hydroelectric-power plant in Barangay San Juan, Kalayaan, Laguna, about 2½ kilometers from picturesque Pagsanjan.

Recently engineer Lynn Castro, vice president for environment and community relations, and Andy Saracho, community relations manager, looked for an education-oriented development program they could undertake for their host communities in Laguna.

The company already has the popular Power Scholars program for deserving but financially challenged public high-school students. Lynn and Andy wanted to go the extra mile.

They got in touch with the Foundation for Worldwide People Power (FWWPP) to find out how CBK could join the Education Revolution.

Lynn and Andy wanted the FWWPP to help them develop meaningful and sustainable adoption programs for about six schools in the area.

She was particularly drawn to our Mentoring the Mentors program presented by Dr. Evelyn Mejillano, agreeing that well-motivated teachers were the key to both quality learning and the development of positive civic values in our youth.

If all details could be worked out, CBK Power Company would most likely spearhead the Mentoring the Mentors program in Laguna.

This writer was pleasantly surprised to learn that Lynn belonged to PHS65 Inc., the alumni association that adopted Pampanga High School.

Through the personal assistance of FWWPP president Dr. Maria Lim Ayuyao, PHS65 Inc. got a donation of desks, tables and chairs from Centro Escolar University.

Making a difference

Dr. Fe A. Hidalgo, DepEd undersecretary for programs and projects, and Beatriz Torno, executive director of DepEd's Teacher Education Council, called on public elementary school principals and master teachers "to make a difference" in promoting quality education.

The DepEd officials attended the Education Revolution Mentoring the Mentors Batch II conducted recently for the Division of Iloilo City.

They saw the need to emphasize the nurturing dimensions of teaching as well as the need for experienced and respected teachers—the mentors—to guide, help or counsel younger teachers.

The Education Revolution Mentoring the Mentors Program aims to develop new skills in mentoring, maximize the teacher-trainee's potential, and break new grounds for redefining the personal qualities of teachers and make them proud to be teachers.

Iloilo City Schools Division superintendent, Atty. Ida B. Endonila, and assistant superintendent Erlinda Gencaya made sure that things ran smoothly during the five-day live-in sessions held at the Racsos Woodland Inland Resort in Guimbal.

For the first time, observers were allowed to attend the sessions. Sr. Ana Carmela of Assumption Iloilo, Celia Andaz and Rod Javier from the Philippine Association for Teacher Education (Pafte) in Davao, and Purita Bilbao, West Visayas University vice president for research and planning, saw how the program reshaped the teacher's perception of her role as an agent for social change.

Leslie Abello and Janet Villanueva of the Educational Values Orientation for Knowledge and Empowerment Foundation (Evoke), an education-oriented non-government organization in Bacolod City, noted every detail.

Evoke has been actively promoting the Education Revolution in Negros province for the past few months now. Executive director Abello felt it was time to introduce Mentoring the Mentors to public school teachers and principals in her province.

At the end of the sessions, Luzviminda Flores of Hibao-an Elementary School, said: "We hope that the insights... will be written in [our] hearts so... we will be able to touch the very lives of the children in the classrooms as well as those of our fellow teachers."

More adoptions

The Magsaysay Institute of Shipping MOL Training Center in Dasmariñas, Cavite, is perhaps the only one of its kind in the country. Cadets use the latest computer-assisted simulators to master the technical intricacies of sophisticated ocean-going vessels.

Cadets who undergo training at the Magsaysay Institute of Shipping all possess excellent academic backgrounds.

Resty Villaruz, director, is somewhat disappointed that many college or maritime-school graduates fail to measure up to the exacting standards set by the MOL Training Center.

Magsaysay Maritime Human Resources AVP Reyna Carillo broached the idea of adopting a school as part of the company's social responsibility program.

This writer and FWWPP Mentoring the Mentors national coordinator Dr. Evelyn Mejillano presented the Education Revolution to Resty, who became convinced that a career-focused school-adoption program is a viable way to improve the quality of the talent pool of the maritime industry.

The MIS MOL Training Center is considering the simultaneous adoptions of an elementary and a high school and entering into some sort of partnership agreement with a college offering BSMT or BSME courses.

The idea is to introduce the maritime career as early as possible.

We are as excited as Resty because of the possibilities that this kind of career-focused adoption program would open up for other industries as well.

The finalized MIS MOL adoption program will definitely be a great model for businesses and corporations who want to step up their global competitiveness.

The author is the executive director of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power.

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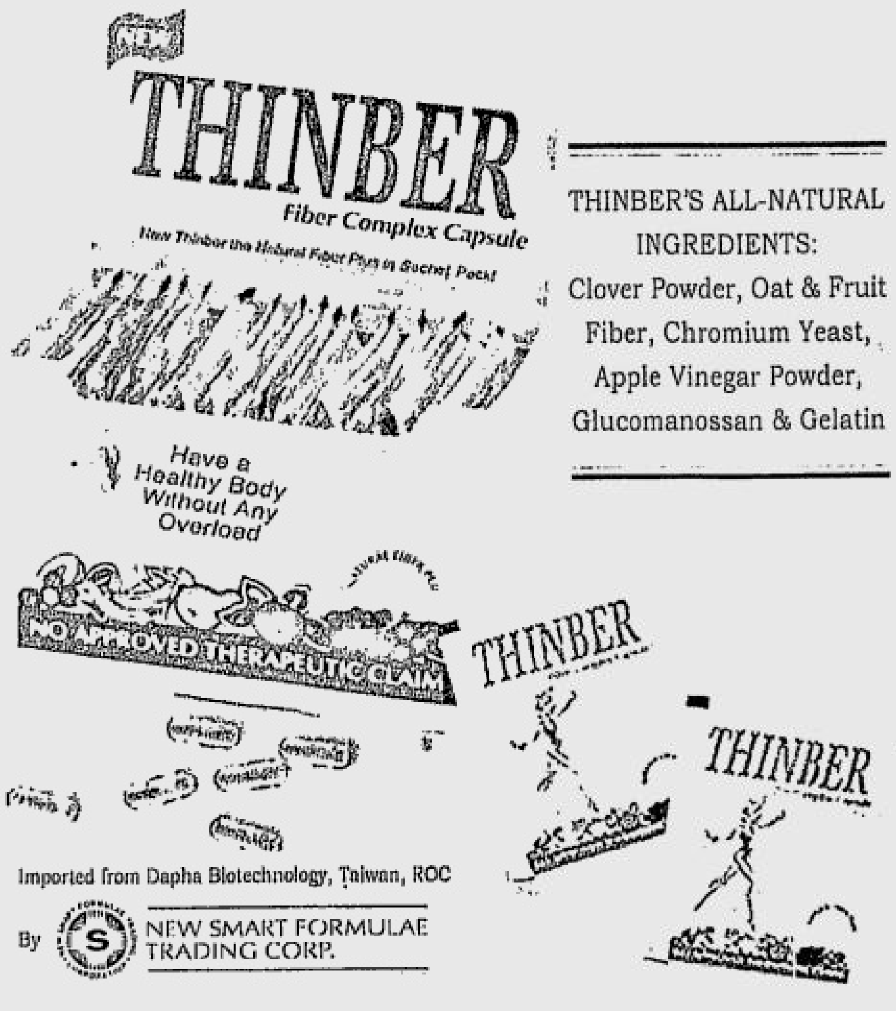
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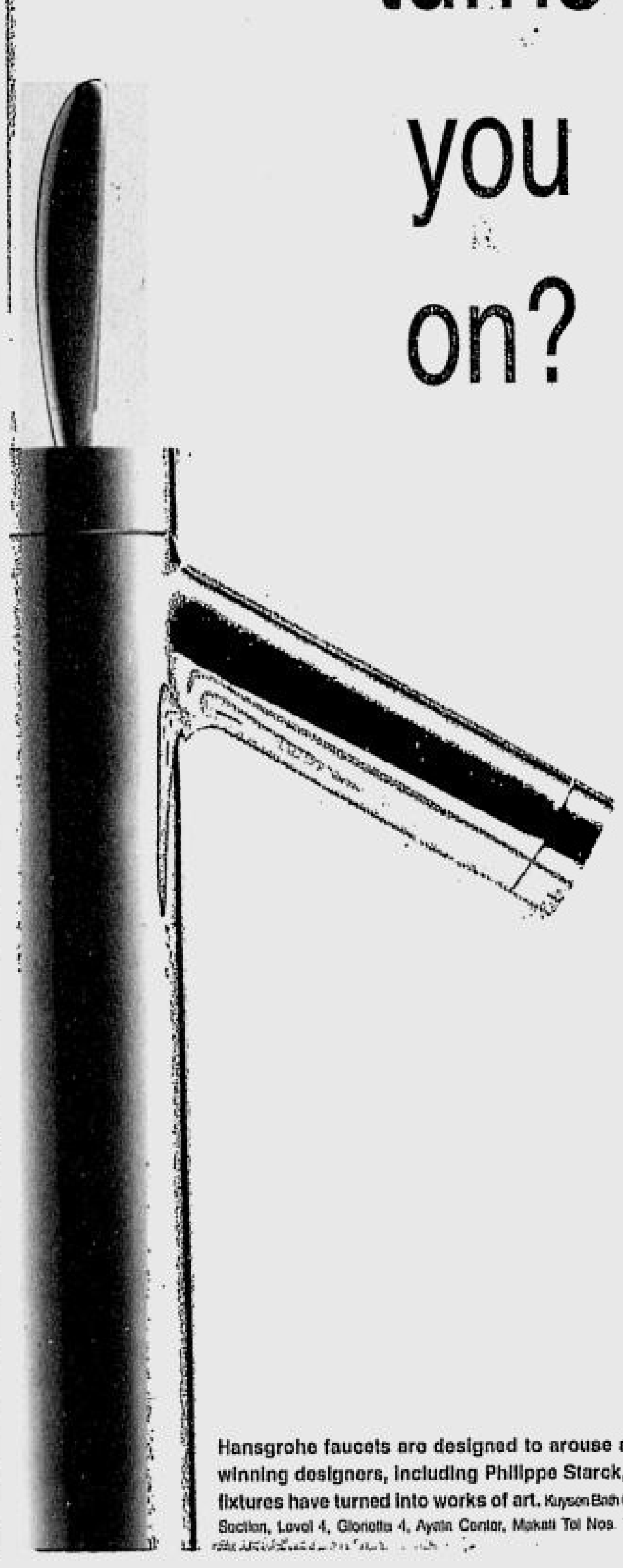
What turns you on?



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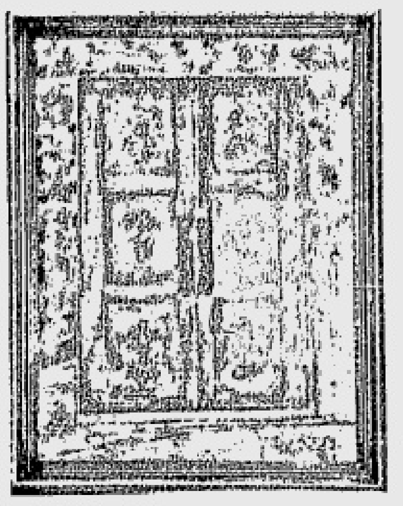

"CARVINGS"

LINDA PANLILIO'S 'DOORS WITH VERSES'

This artist does not ask why there has to be doors

Text by Lito B. Zulueta
Photos by Rudy Esperas

WHEN Erlinda Enriquez-Panlilio picked "doors" as the theme of her solo art exhibit, she unlocked the key to the motif that best sums up the variegated life that she has led since she became a widow more than four years ago.

If by the death of her husband, Dr. Rebecco Panlilio, fate closed the door on a chapter of her life, it also opened another one for her, one that led her to the joys of self-discovery. Widowhood has been a resurrection of sorts for her.

More specifically, Panlilio has discovered writing and painting. After the death of her husband, Linda went back to school, taking up an MFA in Creative Writing at the University of the Philippines. Her thesis, a biography of her mother, the highly successful businesswoman and restaurateur, became the basis of the National Book Award-winning work "Teacher to Tycoon: The Life and Times of Trinidad Diaz Enriquez."

The successful work set her off to a new career as book author and editor. Last year, she edited "From This Day Forward: Widows and Widowers Write," which won for her again a National Book Award last Aug. 30. All of her books have been best-sellers for Anvil Publishing, so it is not a surprise that she's preparing a new volume this year.

Painting has really been more of a rediscovery. She first exhibited a decade ago.

"A Profusion of Blooms" earned kudos for the bubbly society figure who, despite requests from friends and collectors, refused to sell and part with the paintings because she had simply grown accustomed to them. At that time, she apparently had not yet learned the lesson of letting go.

In 2002, she took up the brush again, and amid a life that was full of solitude and bereft of romance, she renewed her love affair with colors. Considering she has also been fiercely editing and authoring books, it is amazing that she finished 21 canvases for her second exhibit.

But she has somehow provided logic and a governing efficiency to her double-life as writer and artist (this does not count, of course, her more dominant life as a businesswoman

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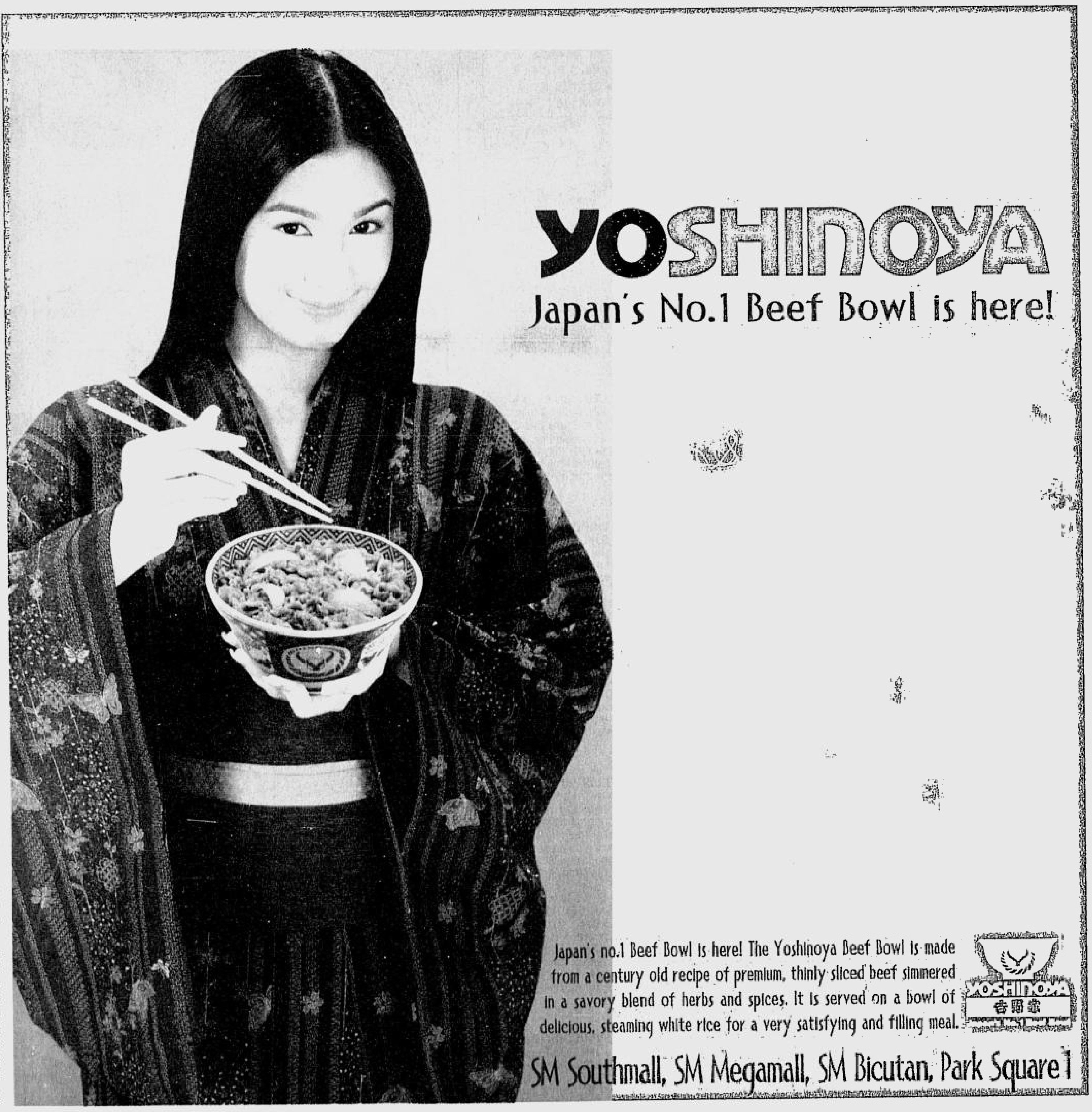

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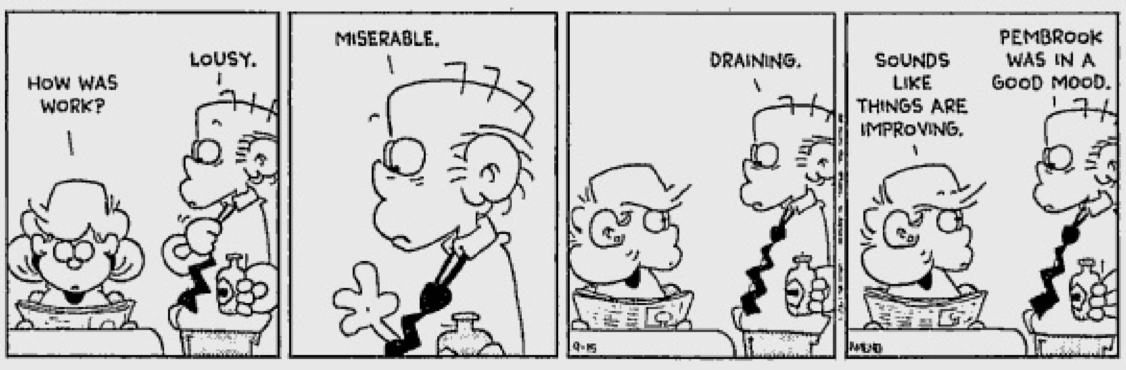
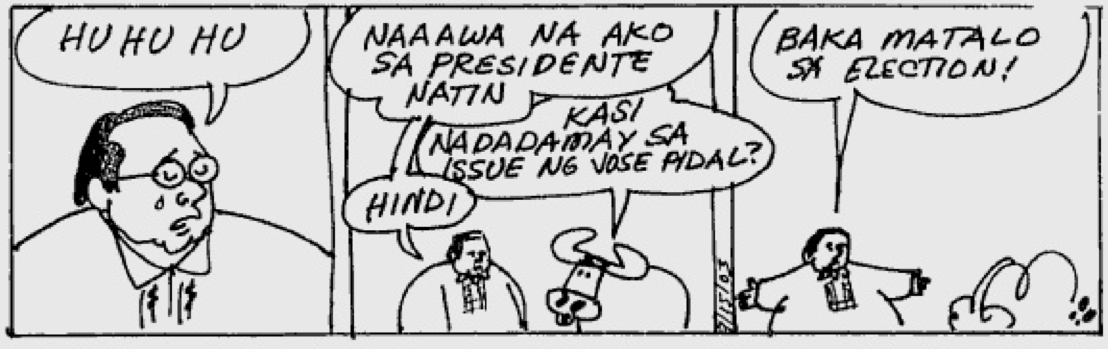
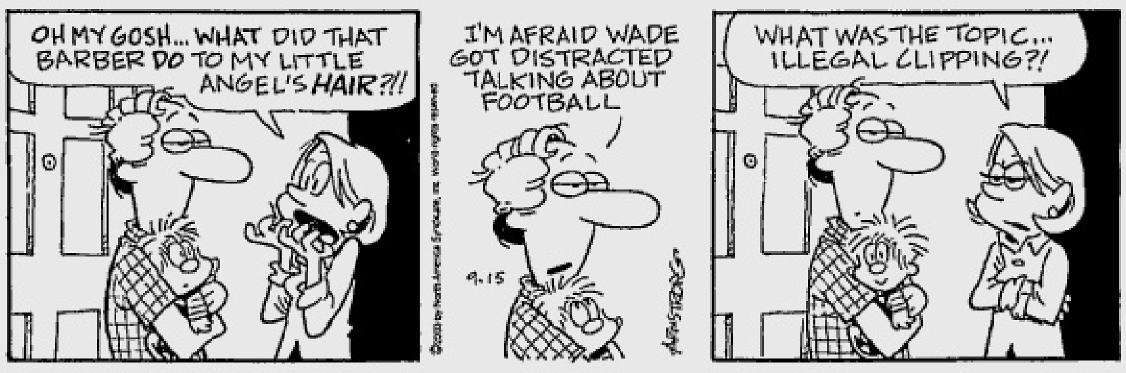

HOW WAS WORK?
LOUSY.
MISERABLE.
DRAINING.
SOUNDS LIKE THINGS ARE IMPROVING.
PEMBROOK WAS IN A GOOD MOOD.
9-15

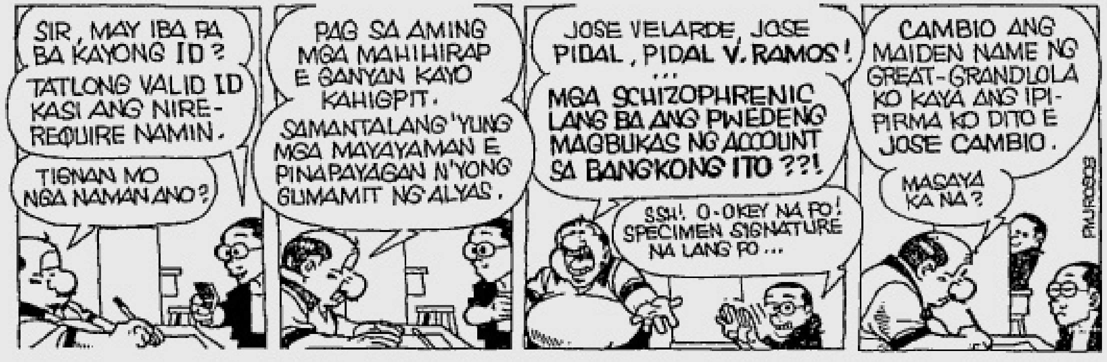
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


HU HU HU
NAAAWA NA AKO SA PRESIDENTE NATIN
KASI NADADAMAY SA ISSUE NG JOSE PIDAL?
HINDI
BAKA MATALO SA ELECTION!

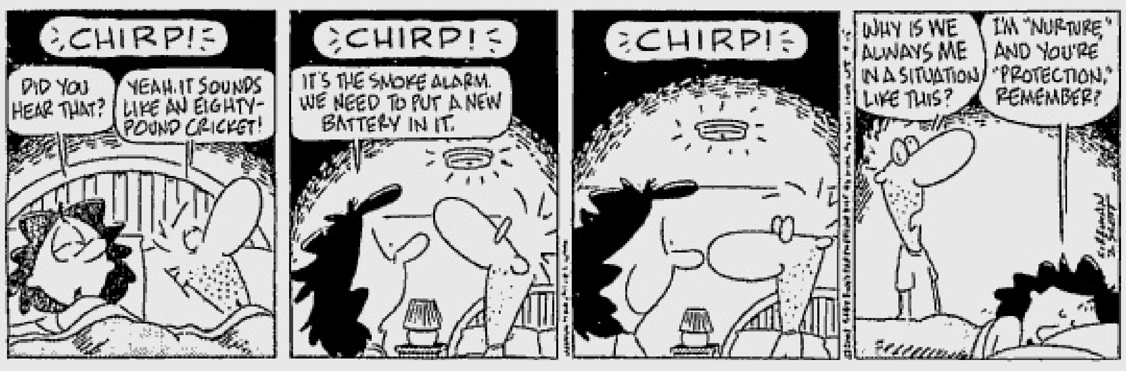
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


OH MY GOSH... WHAT DID THAT BARBER DO TO MY LITTLE ANGEL'S HAIR?!!
I'M AFRAID WADE GOT DISTRACTED TALKING ABOUT FOOTBALL
9.15
WHAT WAS THE TOPIC... ILLEGAL CLIPPING?!

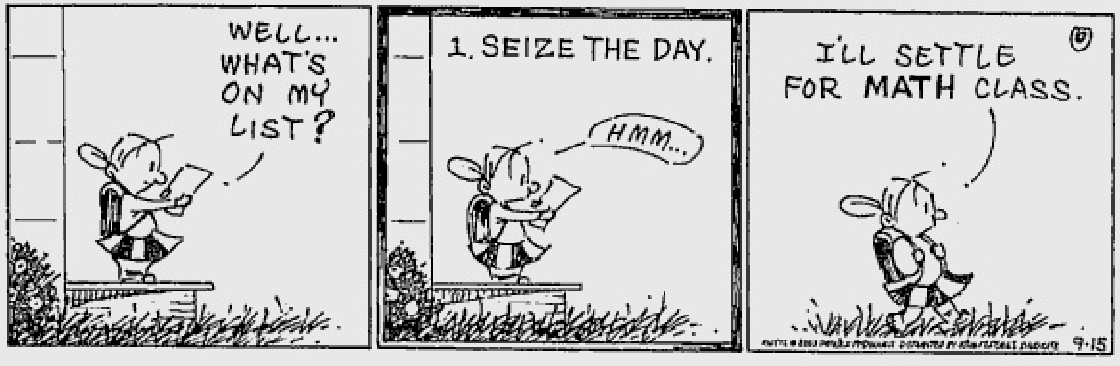
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


SIR, MAY IBA PA BA KAYONG ID?
TATLONG VALID ID KASI ANG NIRE-REQUIRE NAMIN.
TIGNAN MO NGA NAMAN ANO?
PAG SA AMING MGA MAHIHIRAP E GANYAN KAYO KAHIGPIT.
SAMANTALANG 'YUNG MGA MAYAYAMAN E PINAPAYAGAN N'YONG GUMAMIT NG ALYAS.
JOSE VELARDE, JOSE PIDAL, PIDAL V. RAMOS! ...
MGA SCHIZOPHRENIC LANG BA ANG PWEDENG MAGBUKAS NG ACCOUNT SA BANGKONG ITO ??!
SSH! O-OKEY NA PO! SPECIMEN SIGNATURE NA LANG PO...
CAMBIO ANG MAIDEN NAME NG GREAT-GRANDLOLA KO KAYA ANG IPI-PIRMA KO DITO E JOSE CAMBIO.
MASAYA KA NA?

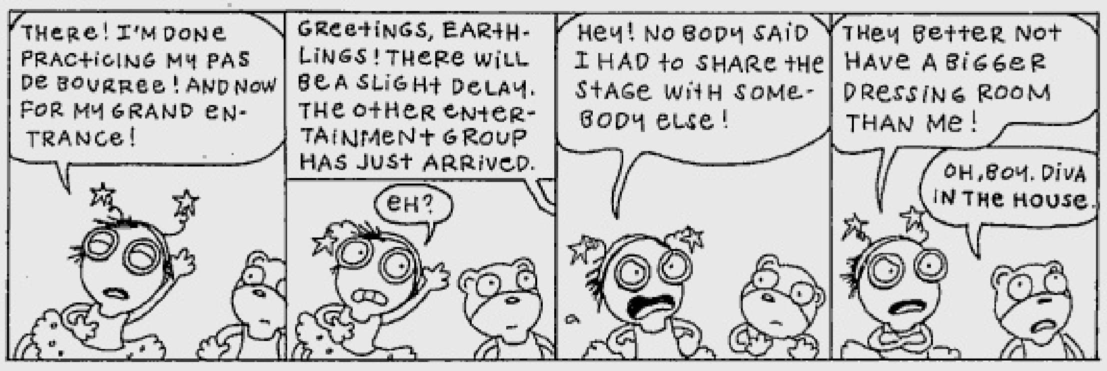
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


CHIRP!
DID YOU HEAR THAT?
YEAH. IT SOUNDS LIKE AN EIGHTY-POUND CRICKET!
CHIRP!
IT'S THE SMOKE ALARM. WE NEED TO PUT A NEW BATTERY IN IT.
CHIRP!
WHY IS WE ALWAYS ME IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS?
I'M "NURTURE," AND YOU'RE "PROTECTION," REMEMBER?

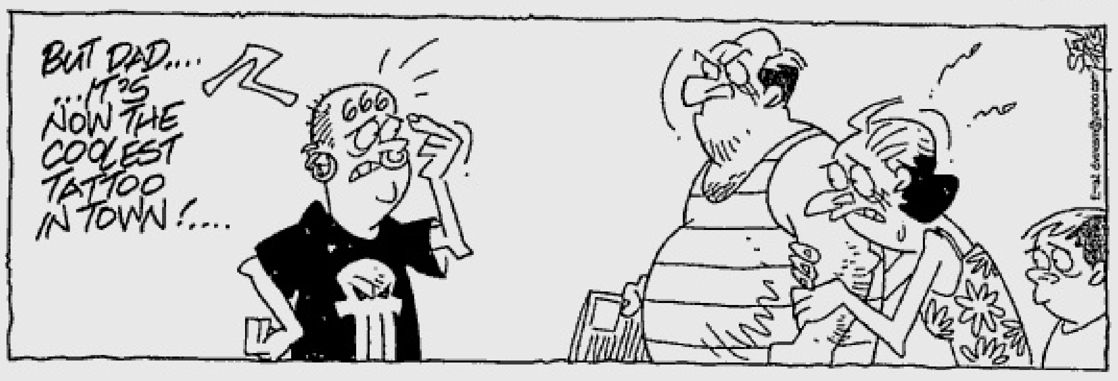
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WELL... WHAT'S ON MY LIST?
1. SEIZE THE DAY.
HMM...
I'LL SETTLE FOR MATH CLASS.
9-15

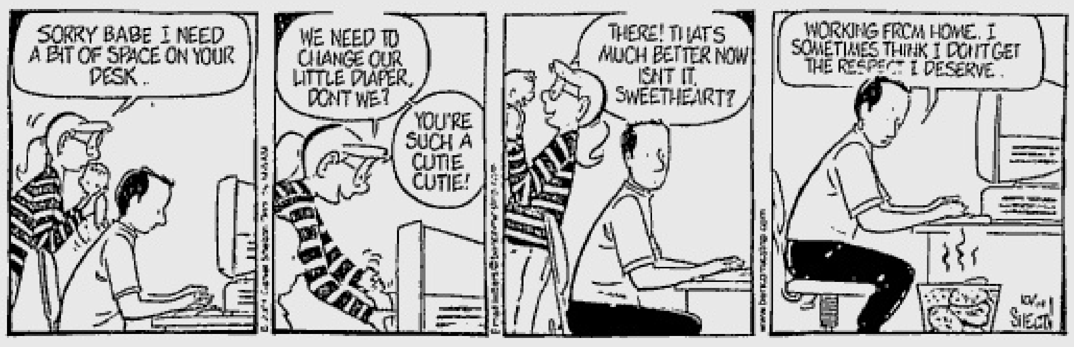
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


THERE! I'M DONE PRACTICING MY PAS DE BOURREE! AND NOW FOR MY GRAND ENTRANCE!
GREETINGS, EARTHLINGS! THERE WILL BE A SLIGHT DELAY. THE OTHER ENTERTAINMENT GROUP HAS JUST ARRIVED.
EH?
HEY! NOBODY SAID I HAD TO SHARE THE STAGE WITH SOMEBODY ELSE!
THEY BETTER NOT HAVE A BIGGER DRESSING ROOM THAN ME!
OH, BOY. DIVA IN THE HOUSE.

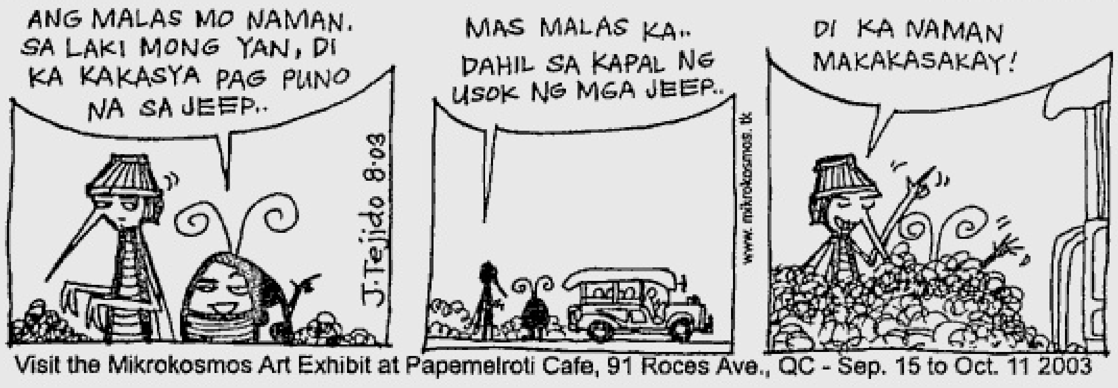
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


BUT DAD... ...IT'S NOW THE COOLEST TATTOO IN TOWN!...
666

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


SORRY BABE I NEED A BIT OF SPACE ON YOUR DESK.
WE NEED TO CHANGE OUR LITTLE DIAPER, DONT WE?
YOU'RE SUCH A CUTIE CUTIE!
THERE! THAT'S MUCH BETTER NOW ISN'T IT, SWEETHEART?
WORKING FROM HOME. I SOMETIMES THINK I DON'T GET THE RESPECT I DESERVE.

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANG MALAS MO NAMAN. SA LAKI MONG YAN, DI KA KAKASYA PAG PUNO NA SA JEEP..
J. Tejido 8-03
MAS MALAS KA.. DAHIL SA KAPAL NG USOK NG MGA JEEP..
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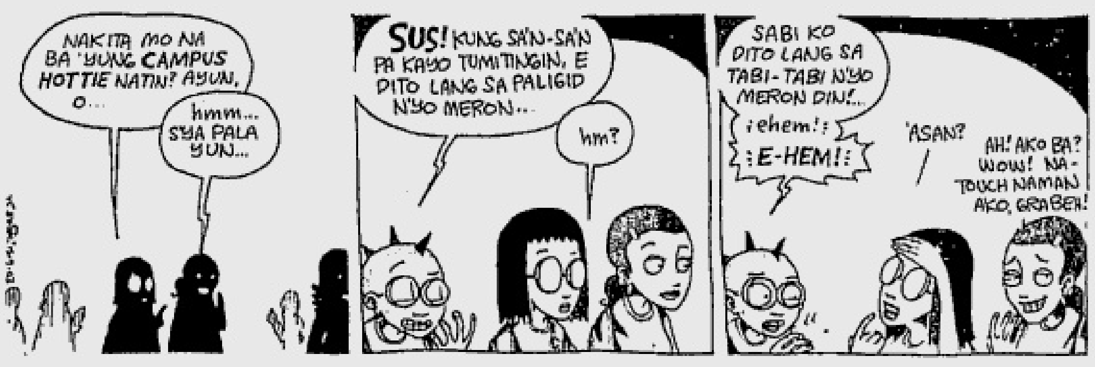
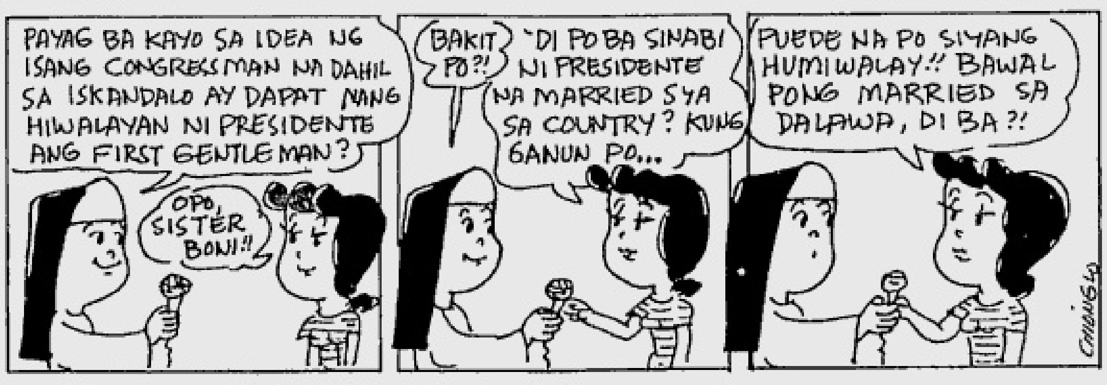
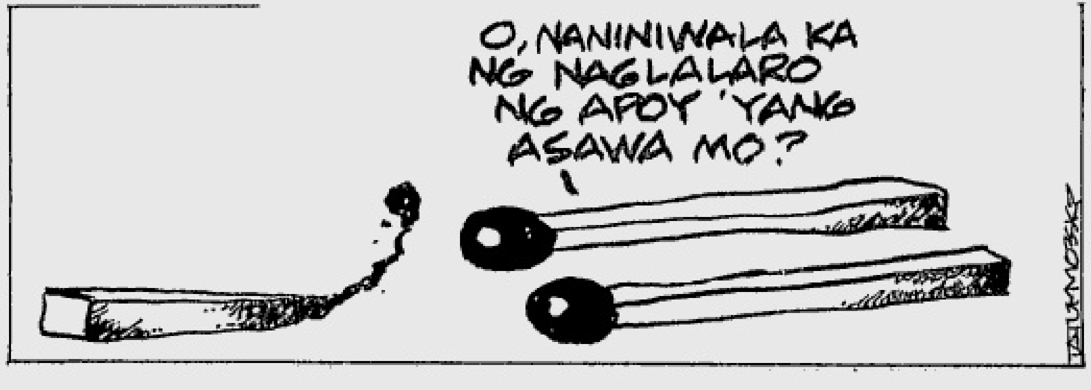

NAKITA MO NA BA 'YUNG CAMPUS HOTTIE NATIN? AYUN, O...
hmm... SYA PALA YUN...
SUS! KUNG SA'N-SA'N PA KAYO TUMITINGIN, E DITO LANG SA PALIGID N'YO MERON...
hm?
SABI KO DITO LANG SA TABI-TABI N'YO MERON DIN!...
¡ehem!
E-HEM!
'ASAN?
AH! AKO BA? WOW! NA-TOUCH NAMAN AKO, GRABEH!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


PAYAG BA KAYO SA IDEA NG ISANG CONGRESSMAN NA DAHIL SA ISKANDALO AY DAPAT NANG HIWALAYAN NI PRESIDENTE ANG FIRST GENTLEMAN?
OPO, SISTER BONI!
BAKIT PO?!
'DI PO BA SINABI NI PRESIDENTE NA MARRIED SYA SA COUNTRY? KUNG GANUN PO...
PUEDE NA PO SIYANG HUMIWALAY!! BAWAL PONG MARRIED SA DALAWA, DI BA?!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


O, NANINIWALA KA NG NAGLALARO NG APOY 'YANG ASAWA MO?

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You like to have your own special niche in the world. You can be outgoing and full of life publicly, but you need to withdraw somewhere to a safe refuge to replenish yourself. You want to earn good money to build yourself this refuge. The year ahead focuses on your closest partnerships (beginnings and endings).

Birthdate of: Prince Harry, British royal; Tommy Lee Jones, actor; Robert Benchley, writer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): The next few weeks will be pleasant and joyful in terms of relating to partners, co-workers—even enemies! You simply want to make peace with others.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You might attract money to yourself through your spouse or a partner. The month ahead is an excellent time to apply for a loan or ask someone for something practical.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): The next four weeks promise fun, entertainment and a good time! Everything having to do with love affairs, romance, vacations and children is highly favored.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Your relations with parents and family will improve in the next few weeks. At the same time, you'll want to undertake a redecorating project to make where you live look more attractive.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): It starts to occur to you now that there is a considerable amount of love in your everyday life. That's why this is a good time to let others know how much you love them.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Most financial negotiations now and in the next few weeks will turn out in your favor. This is also an excellent time to look for a job. Money opportunities look great.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Today and in the month ahead, try to improve your wardrobe. Buy beautiful things for yourself. (They don't have to be expensive.) Pleasure ranks above work now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You are increasingly interested in your spiritual world. You know that there is a limitless space within your heart that you often ignore. Why not tap into this infinite strength?

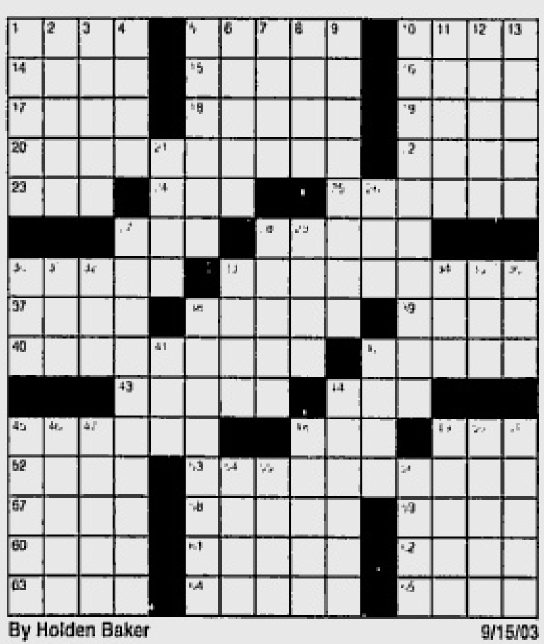
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Get ready for a month of group activities and fun with friends. Your social calendar will start to fill up. Lovers become friends; friends become lovers.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Regardless of what you do for living, you might be asked to work in design, doing layout work or redecorating something. This is a chance to make something look more attractive.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Travel appeals you now. Everything having to do with publishing, foreign countries, higher education and the law gets a lovely boost in the weeks ahead.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Your love relationships now assume a greater intensity, but in a loving way. You feel very tender toward yourself and others.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Holden Baker
Greenfield, MA
9/15/03

ACROSS
1 Annoyance
5 Discontinue
10 Loan for Marc Antony?
14 Francis or Frank
15 Employs
16 Moises of baseball
17 Golf club
18 De Mille of the dance
19 Cut, as wood
20 Long Island on the Sound
22 Govt. agents
23 Blast letters
24 Mel of the Polo Grounds
25 Celebrity's opposite?
27 Calamity
28 "Le __ du printemps"
30 Frat member
33 Divert
37 "__ High"
38 Birthplace of Apollo
39 Old Italian bread?
40 "__ Familiar Quotations"
42 Humorous
43 Minute bits
44 Post-dusk
45 Bombshell's color
48 Letters on Cardinal caps
49 Trajectory
52 Pork fat
53 Seoul's country
57 Jai __
58 Proverbial crowd
59 Mellows
60 Palm fruit
61 Actress Georgia
62 Melt together
63 Meadow belles
64 Go-getters
65 Plant starter

DOWN
1 House coat?
2 Infamous energy giant
3 Laugh derisively
4 Revivalist's workplace
5 Virtuous
6 Word before ball or bells
7 Tuscany river
8 Soothsayer
9 Concentrated substances
10 One side of an old wall
11 Texas mission
12 Used cars
13 Cloudless
21 Angler's need
26 Table scrap
27 Atlantic archipelago
28 Delta deposits
29 Fusses
30 Yak
31 Media bus. grp.
32 Profit ending?
33 Bristle
34 Islet
35 Part of a TV
36 Florida island
38 Loathed
41 City in Israel
42 Champagne musicmaker
44 Merman and Waters
45 Cutting edge
46 Dysart series
47 Deliver an address
48 Man the helm
49 Bicker
50 Actress Witherspoon
51 Checked out, as the joint
54 Cry of despair
55 Strongly advise
56 Klutzes

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

A	D	D	■	S	O	L	A	C	E	R	■	F	A	T
D	E	E	■	P	R	O	B	O	N	O	■	A	T	E
A	L	S	■	R	A	V	E	N	N	A	■	G	E	M
M	I	C	H	E	L	E	■	S	O	S	■	L	A	P
S	C	R	E	E	S	■	S	U	B	T	L	E	S	T
R	A	I	L	S	■	P	A	L	L	I	A	T	E	S
I	T	E	M	■	P	A	R	T	I	N	G	■	■	■
B	E	D	■	H	E	R	D	I	N	G	■	P	I	A
■	■	■	N	E	S	T	I	N	G	■	R	O	U	T
R	E	C	A	S	T	I	N	G	■	C	O	U	R	T
A	L	L	S	P	I	C	E	■	C	H	A	N	G	E
M	O	E	■	E	L	I	■	G	L	A	D	D	E	N
A	P	E	■	R	E	P	R	O	O	F	■	A	N	D
D	E	S	■	U	N	L	O	O	S	E	■	G	E	E
A	R	E	■	S	T	E	E	P	E	D	■	E	V	E

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This artist...

From page F1

belonging to the Enriquez clan that dominates the hotel and restaurant industry).

Doors

The logic is evident in "Doors with Verses," an exhibit of paintings and poems. Here are Panlilio's twin passions in widowhood—painting and writing—which are passions of the non-romantic sort (although she's capable of—and available for—romance).

What is immediately apparent about the paintings is their utter lack of grief. Which is not to say they are bright and sunny. It's just that they're professionally done without any adulteration of emotion. In a way, it could be said Panlilio had mastered her art, a credit both to her mentors (Carissa Villa and Stella Roxas) and to her indomitable, "*sugod nang sugod*" spirit.

That spirit is evident in the wide gamut of artistic styles she shows in these works in oil.

On the one hand, she can be impressionistic, as in "Tropical Green" (showing a green door with *tornos* and a palm tree graciously arching over it) and "Out Sailing" (blue doors in green wall, with two chairs in front and beach ball in the right).

She can also be mildly abstract in "What Lies Within" (minimalist painting of dark-brown off-center door) and even mildly expressionistic as in "Abandoned" (an old lattice-type door set in yellowish-white rocks).

And she can be realist, as in "Homage to Luis" (showing a door at the far end atop a staircase, with glass balls beside a cantilevered bench—watch the play of light in the balls) and magic realist as in "J's Door" (an ancient wooden door slightly open, holding out the promise of lush greenery barely peeping from the outside).

Panlilio is capable of visual trickery. In "The Feast," the door leads to the kitchen where the table is laden with goodies, which, as seen from the glass door, are arranged in quadrilateral fashion, so that the door becomes some sort of a pastry shelf.

The same sorcery, unintended perhaps, is seen in "The Lock," showing a weathered door in Saint Tropez, in which the rusty ancient lock is magnified in exaggerated proportion, so that it looks like a violin, endowing the whole image with a subtle music.

Verses

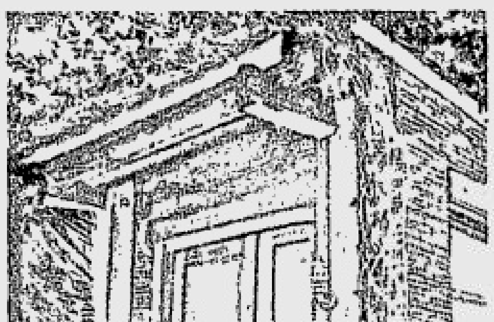
The music is also embodied in the poetry.

Panlilio herself has tried her hand at poetry writing (her poems are anthologized in the recent "duel" volume of Filipino and Singapore poets, "Love Conquers All").

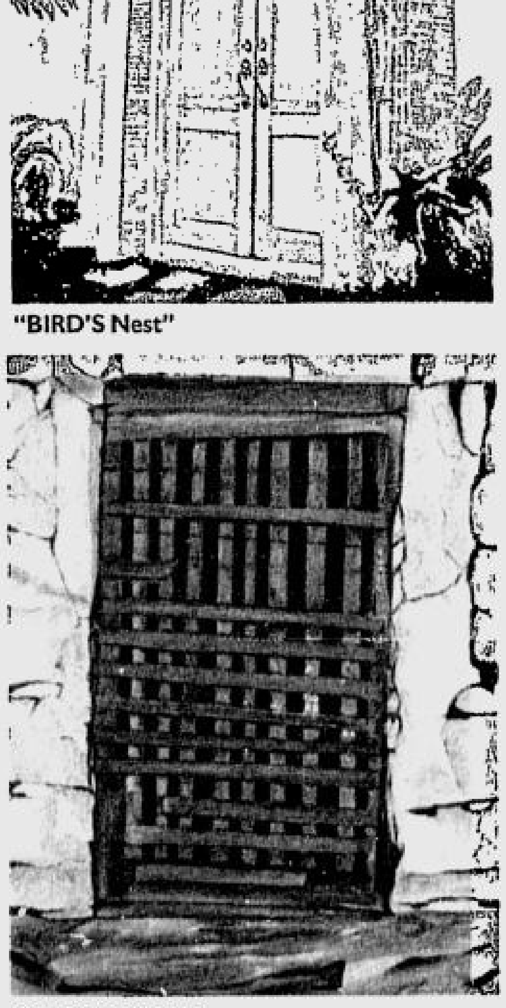
But she has allowed other poets to interact with her paintings, and they're not a mean lot: National Artist Virgilio S. Almario, Gemino H. Abad, Ophelia A. Dimalanta, Ricardo de Ungria, Alfred A. Yuson, Jose Dalisay Jr., Marjorie Evasco, Cirilo Bautista, Marra PL. Lanot, Vim Nadera, Danton Remoto, J. Neil C. Garcia, Jose Wendell Capili, Simeon Dumdum Jr., Ronald Baytan, Ramon Sunico, Michael Coroza, Rebecca Añonuevo, Ralph Galan, Carlomar A. Daoana and Paolo Manalo.

The painting and poems can be viewed and read jointly or independently. They need not complement one another because, in the ambience of intertextuality, they will contrast and cohere whether the painter and the poets like it or not.

Abad seems to prefigure this result when he paints with words what a door connotes—of "hinges and knobs/(announcing) our need," somehow referring to the past when "there were no doors" and "nothing was withheld," so that doors paradoxically show what is available because the "openness" before—that doors now afford—"was at once to enter/And see." Thus, doors are a way of entering, a way of seeing, a way of being.

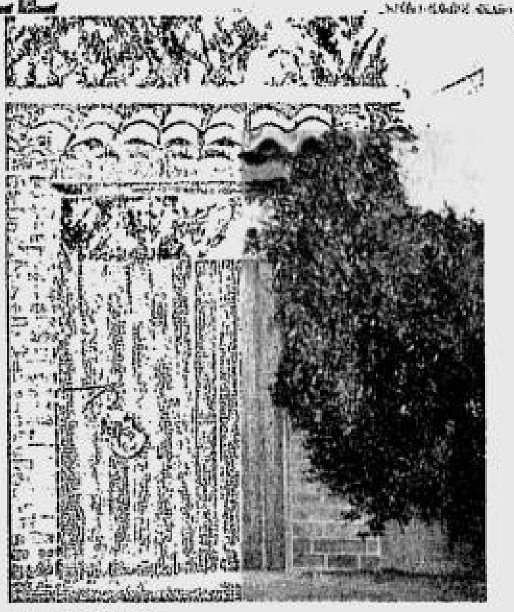


"BIRD'S Nest"

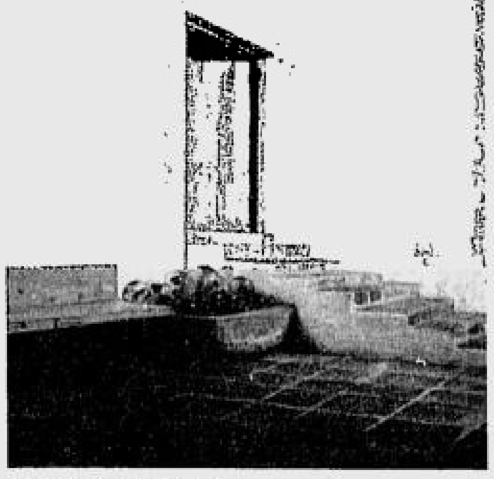


"ABANDONED"

LINDA Panlilio puts the finishing touches to "Sit with Me," the last painting in the series.



"THE LOCK"



"HOMAGE to Luis"

As Panlilio herself says, "Doors have an aura of mystery. One does not know what lies beyond. Opening a door involves risk. Inside may be a dark room full of mystery, or it could lead to the light—to new horizons."

Thus, doors are signals of exploration and adventure. We wonder what door she'll open next.

Erlinda Enriquez-Panlilio's "Doors with Verses" opens on Sept. 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the Art Café of the Hotel Intercon. The exhibit runs until Oct. 9. Call 8159711 loc. 231-233.

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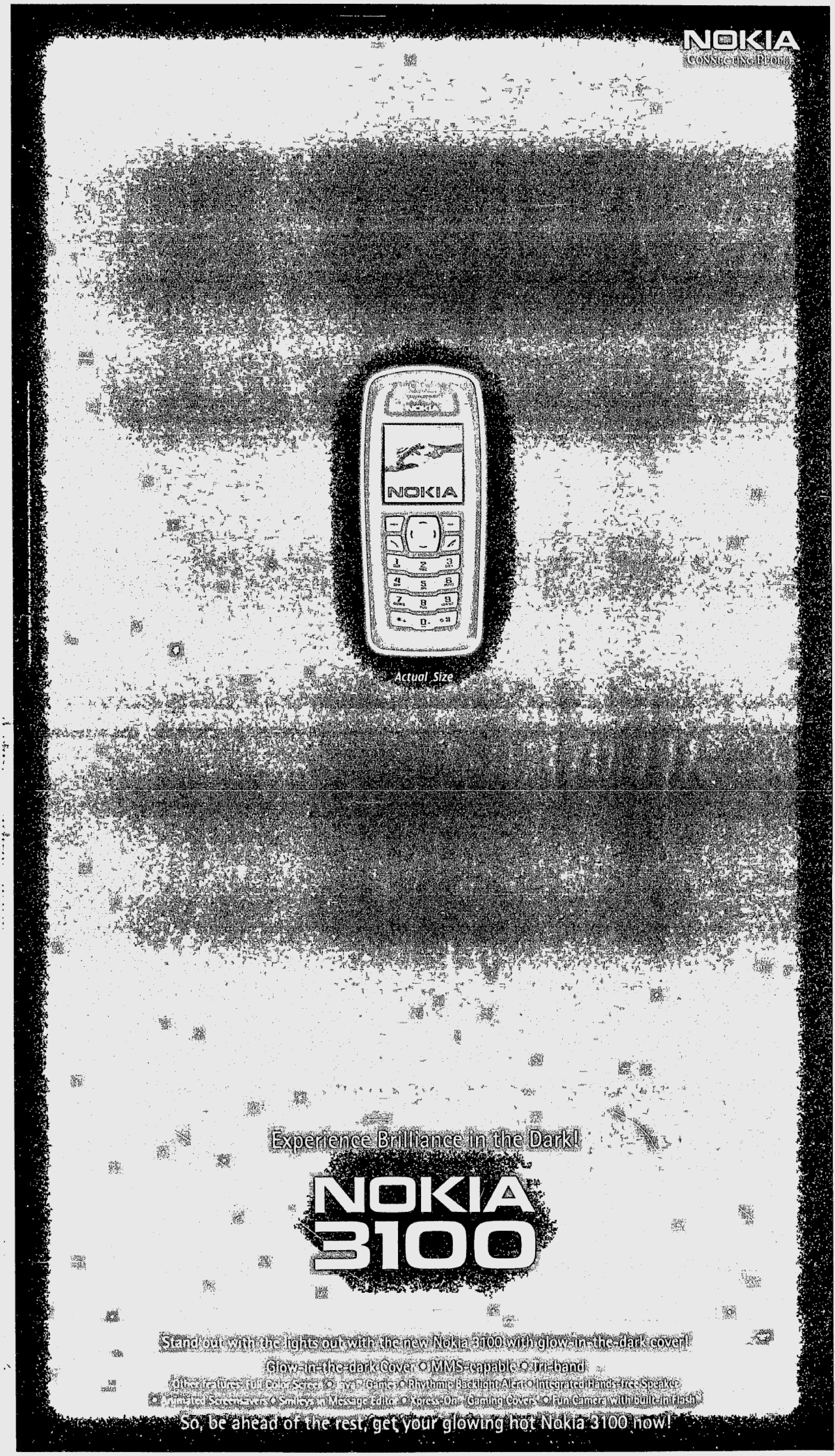

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FOURTEEN-year-old Monique with Baby Barredo (center) and company in "A Little Night Music" (1984)

On stage with my stage moms

By Monique Wilson
Contributor

SEPT. 19 will be a very special day. It is the day we open our New Voice Company (NVC) 2003 theater season at the new Republic of Malate Theatre.

It is also the day we celebrate our ninth year. It will also be the day when I get to perform with my first teachers in the theater—Zeneida (Bibot) Amador and Baby Barredo—after 13 years—and 23 years since I first performed with them as

ON STAGE/ G4

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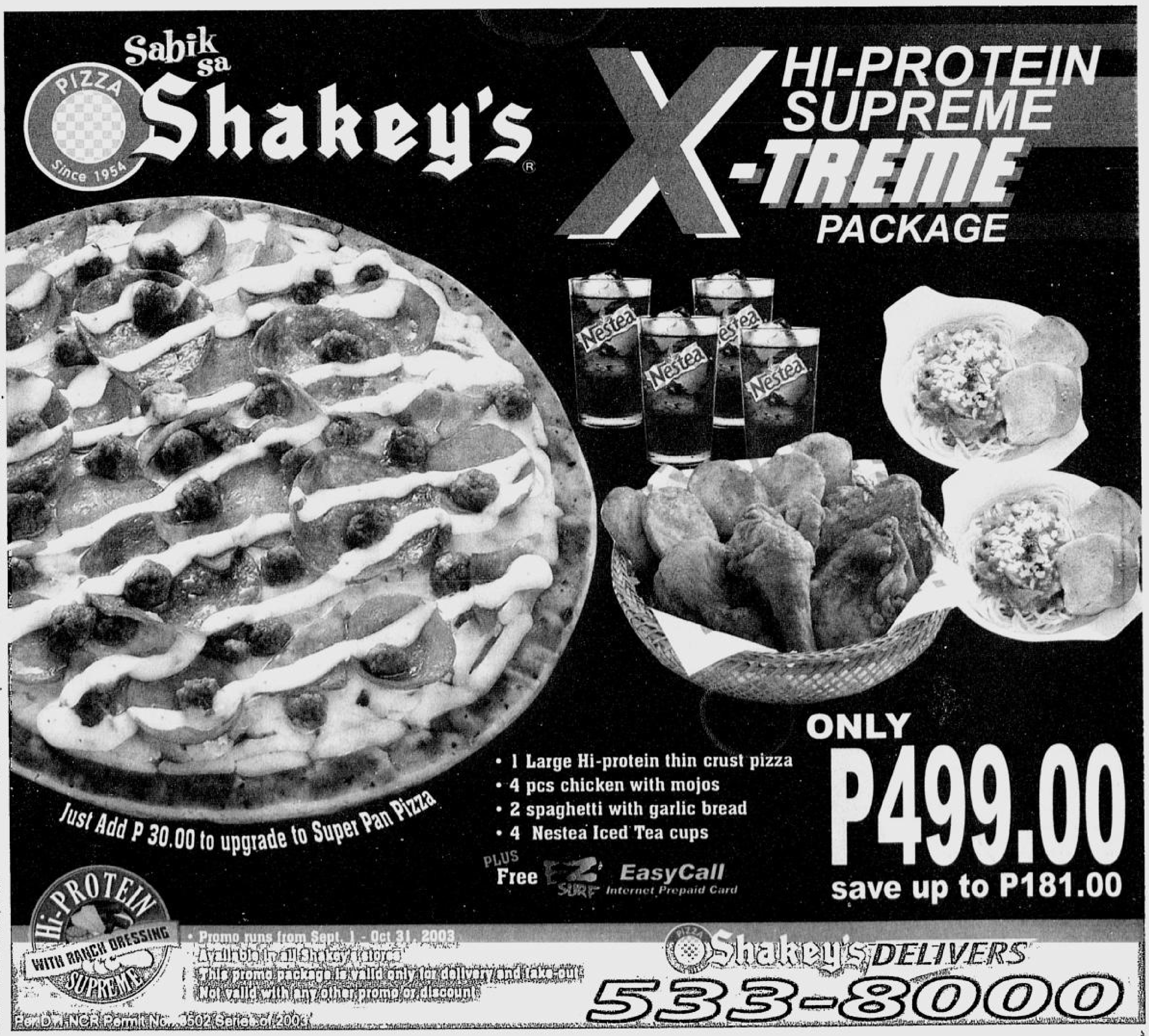
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Hail to King!

Admirers organized a series of surprise concerts as tribute to National Artist Kasilag

By Antonio C. Hila
Contributor

AT 85 years old, National Artist for Music Lucrecia R. Kasilag, fondly called "Tita King," is still mentally active, although, since her 80th birthday, she has been hospitalized quite often and has undergone an eye operation.

She attends concerts and graces important social occasions, maneuvering her battery-driven motovator.

Recently admirers paid her a tribute by organizing a series of surprise concerts.

The first of the concerts was presented at the Cultural Center of the Philippines by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, CCP, National Music Competitions for Young Artists (Namcya) and the Lucrecia R. Kasilag Foundation.

It was followed by an *asalto* or offering at the Philippine Women's University, and was capped by the 1st Kasilag Piano Festival sponsored by the MCO Foundation, Equitable PCI Bank and the PWU College of Music.

Kasilag is, of course, composer, performing artist, educator and cultural administrator. She is associated with the academe, the CCP, the theater, the Bayanihan Dance Company, the Philippine Music Ensemble, Namcya and the Filipino League of Composers.

Moved to tears

At the CCP, she only found out about the tribute when she was wheeled on stage. As her tears flowed, she was presented big bouquets of flowers.

The performance ran for a little over an hour. At the lobby, members of the audience were greeted by the merry tunes of the Francisco Felix Rondalla, conducted by Lino Mangandi.

The show featured brief recorded testimonials from former First Lady Imelda R. Marcos, CCP president Nestor Jardin, composer Josefino Toledo, Naty Peralta, Kasilag's sister and some students.

The honoree wore a big smile as she marked time with her left hand the bouncy tune from the musicians of the Bayanihan National Folk Dance Company, who accompanied the dancers in a suite of folk dances preceded by "Alitaptap."

The allegory, more than the grace with which the dance was executed, made it more alluring, perhaps even eclipsing the "Pandango sa Ilaw."

The "Sayaw sa Bangko" was done on four tiers of benches rather than the usual one bench, with the woman dancer leaping from one level to the other.

The serenade by the Philippine Madrigals Singers, led by Mark Anthony Carpio, had the audience listening intently, especially when the men did "Dungawin Mo, Hirang," a *harana* piece arranged by Magdangal de Leon, with burning passion and utmost tenderness.

Young dancers from Ballet Philippines presented a well paced execution of Joey Ayala's "Magkaugnay," integrating ethnic instruments and espousing Asian holistic concepts.

The choral and instrumental numbers represented the different forms of Kasilag's compositions. "Philippine Scenes," a three-movement suite representing the country's three main island groups, was played handsomely by the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO) under the baton of Prof. Toledo.

Seven sopranos—Joy Abalon, Karina Gay Balajadia, Josephine Roces-Chaves, Mary Karlene Lizbeth Denolo, Alexis Edralin, Rachel Gerodias and Karlyn Kimberly Kwok—sang "Thanks Be to God," arranged by Toledo.

Star performer

A hefty *pasalubong* was offered by pianist Cecile Licad, who played Debussy and Schumann numbers from her programs in Manila and provincial tours.

WHEELCHAIR-BOUND but spirit-unbound, Kasilag acknowledges tribute.

Ten pianists and the PPO gave an eloquent rendition of Divertissement. Pianists were Jed Balsamo, Jonathan Coo, Harold Galang, Najib Ismail, Zenas Lozada, Fr. Manuel Maramba, OSB, Belinda Salazar, Beverly Shangkuan, Raul Sunico and Joey Uriarte.

Alfonso "Coke" Bolipata, with five other violinists—Divina Francisco, Chino Gutierrez, Mary Grace Martines, Diomedes Saraza Jr. and Maurice Ivan Saraz—played the honoree's Violin Concerto No. 1 in close rapport with the PPO.

The choral numbers that capped the presentation were intoned massively by a composite choir that filled up the stage and the lower balcony sections of the theater. With Toledo and the PPO, the choir produced a sound that engulfed the entire hall.

The audience, including National Artists F. Sionil Jose (Literature), Leonor Orosa-Goquinco (Dance) and Andrea Veneracion (Music), gave a thunderous applause.

At the PWU, Kasilag received the East Asia Millennium Peace Award (Arts and Culture Category) from Consul Fortune Aleta-Ledesma and Dr. Nona Ricafort of the Millennium Women for Peace and Development Foundation, Inc.

Several pianists took turns playing her works grouped into "Romanticism," "Traditionalism," "Exoticism," "Classicism" and "Dynamism," at Equitable PCI Bank's Francisco Santiago Hall.

Coming from the PWU College of Music, the pianists were Jay Arguelles, Clarijane Belliones, Jeddi Celeste, Jonathan Coo, Maysel Dano, Irene Gavas, Joan Magro and Herbert Yonathan. Guest pianists were Ma. Regina Montesclaros and Naomi Paz Sison.

Many pieces were heard for the first time, like "April Morning."

Sison, also a performing soprano, did Derivation V, a preview for the 2nd Kasilag Piano Festival next year that will feature all eight "derivation" pieces.

Ten-year-old Montesclaros, a Namcya winner, was the biggest surprise, stunning the audience with her lush tones in her rendition of Scherzino.

Soaring spirits in Cagayan and Isabela

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

LATE last year, a Kawaii baby grand traveled for 10 hours from Manila to Tuguegarao City for Cecile Licad's first performance in Cagayan.

City Mayor Randolph Ting lent me a truck to bring a piano tuner for the performance. On the day of the performance, I witnessed the euphoria of the audience; it made me realize that provincial audiences might even go deeper in music appreciation than their cosmopolitan counterparts.

The audience gave Licad a standing ovation in the first part of the program; it gave her four more in the last part.

Nine months later, Licad was back in Cagayan. This time, she brought along her son, Otavio, who celebrated his 16th birthday in Banaue.

There, the pianist witnessed her first landslide and waded through two kilometers of knee-deep mud to get back to the lowland and, later, be rescued by a helicopter at the Bagabag airstrip.

In Tuguegarao, after testing the baby grand and finding it still in perfect shape, Licad accompanied her son to see the Callao Caves. They also went boating on the Callao River.

With them was filmmaker Marilou Diaz-Abaya (she watched all her Manila performances and seemed not to have enough of them, so she followed Licad to Cagayan).

In the process, the pianist and her son rediscovered the beauty of this prime Northern Luzon province.

I had never done sightseeing a few hours before a concert. The pianist could see the look of worry in my face and quickly reassured me, "Don't worry, Pablo. I will play well tonight."

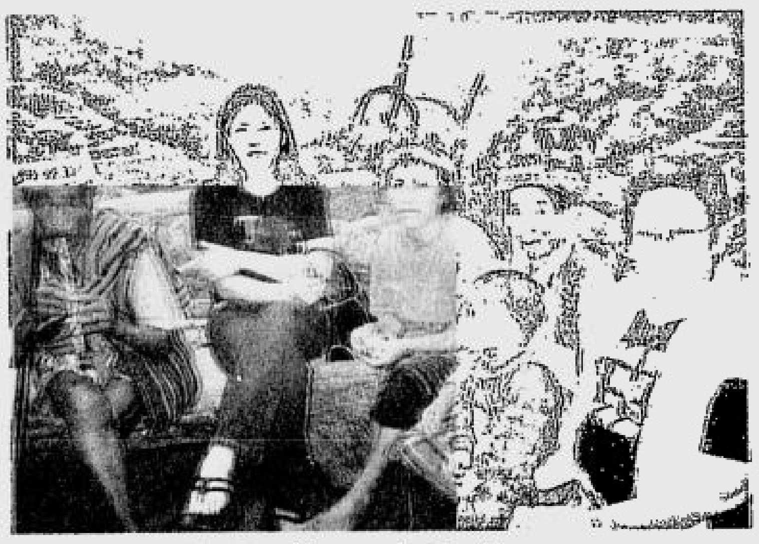
As in her maiden performance at the Science City of Muñoz in Nueva Ecija, Licad was to do a full recital with pieces that she was playing for the first time in her own country: Beethoven's Sonata Op. 81, ("Les Adieux"); Debussy's "Estampes"; Schumann's Sonata No. 2 in G Minor, Op. 22; and Chopin's 24 Preludes, Op. 28.

It was déjà vu. A grateful audience led by Ilagan, Isabela Bishop Sergio Utleg (yes, he and many others drove all the way from Isabela to Cagayan to watch Licad) stood up for the ovation at the end of the 24 Preludes, and continued doing so for every encore number. Licad generously gave three!

Fr. Paco Albano, who is now rector of Our Lady of the Visitation Seminary in Ilagan, Isabela, profusely thanked me for bringing back the pianist in less than a year's time.

He wrote: "I once read a critic say that "Les Adieux" is not one of Beethoven's best creations. Let him hear Ms Licad play it and he'll say the piece comes from God. With "Estampes," Ms Licad's chisel-like playing engraved exotic pagodas and evenings and gardens in the rain forever in my imagination. Let silence be praised for her exquisite Chopin Preludes."

Fr. Paco noted that Licad regards piano playing as a form of prayer and that it is also a form of meditation.



LICAD with Marilou Diaz Abaya at the Cordilleras

"While other musicians are all heart or all mind in their rendering," continued Fr. Paco, "Licad at the piano is spirit connecting with Spirit and thus able to bring up heart and mind to higher levels. And then she lifts all of us up to her level. And she tells us that prayer is also fun. Buencamino's "Inday" was fun with the Spirit."

And so that was how the Cagayan concert ended: People overjoyed and feeling they'd gone higher than everyday concerns.

The next day, Licad and Abaya with writer Babeth Lolarga, shared my Isabela past. They adored the old Tumawini Church, the new cathedral in Ilagan, and dropped by what used to be the Isabela Provincial Jail near the museum.

Abaya inspected every part of the jail, where the women prisoners lived and where the male prisoners were segregated.

A little more than three years ago, my daughter spent 15 days in this jail for a non-bailable offense (the court granted petition for bail later) and it was during the course of this jail visitations that I thought of bringing back classical music in this part of Northern Luzon.

If my daughter Kerima did not go to this part of the country three years ago, a Cecile Licad in Cagayan would not have been made possible.

"Can you see God's plan in this?" Abaya asked me, noting that the foray of prize-winning and distinguished musicians in Northern Luzon started when I first set foot in Isabela to visit a daughter in distress.

I gave her a smile, and, noting that I focus on the gratification of the spirit without a single corporate sponsor to back me up, Abaya said: "What you are doing in this part of Northern Luzon is what I would call soul projects."

I guess that is the only way you can justify concert deficits. The supreme joy and happiness of audiences who crossed rivers and mountains to watch a concert is, indeed, unquantifiable.

Back in Manila, I am aghast that the source of spiritual gratification are the Senate hearings on alleged money laundering and mutiny over bounties.

Here and there

That was a great gathering of choirs and distinguished musicians led by Cecile Licad. I am talking about the tribute to Tita King Kasilag on her 85th birthday last Aug. 25 at the CCP. I also note the presence of Kasilag specialist Jonathan Coo.

Next day, Licad, with the Manila Philharmonic under Rodel Colmenar, wowed the employees and officers of the Bank of the Philippine Islands at Onstage Theater in Greenbelt 1 on the occasion of the bank's 152nd anniversary. Licad gave four encores.

* * *

Two-time Namcya first-prize winner Oliver Salonga also got a standing ovation in his Francisco Santiago Hall debut last Aug. 31. The concert was made possible by a grant by Equitable PCI Bank and the MCO Foundation.

It was also his farewell concert before he left for Florida to accept a full scholarship at Lynn University. Salonga also won first prize in the Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto Competition at the University of the Philippines.

What is amazing about this 17-year-old kid is his ability to learn not just from one teacher but from all who helped shape him. There are teachers who teach mainly to get credit from the media and to share the adulation, and there are teachers who teach quietly and get good and more substantial results.

Indeed, there are "soul" teachers and "adulation-hungry" teachers and the latter is the main reason why music education in exclusive subdivisions is in such state of disrepute.

* * *

My condolence to the family of Carmen Kilayko, who passed away last month in Bacolod City. She was the wife of cellist-physician Francisco Kilayko, and this lady was the main reason why I brought cellist Antonio Meneses and Cecile Licad to Negros in 1995. Good cellists are seldom heard in Bacolod and that 1995 cello-piano concert brought untold joy to Negrenses.

Ms Kilayko, in particular, was in tears all throughout the performance because she remembered her cellist-husband.

It was in Ms Kilayko's house that Wagnerian soprano Helen Traubel briefly stayed in the late '40s (or was it the early '50s?) When I learned about this, I promptly requested that I be billeted near that room where Madame Traubel stayed.

* * *

Another cellist visited Bacolod lately and his recital was nearly ruined by unnecessary intermission numbers that had nothing to do with Beethoven and Shostakovich. The gall of some so-called cultural workers!

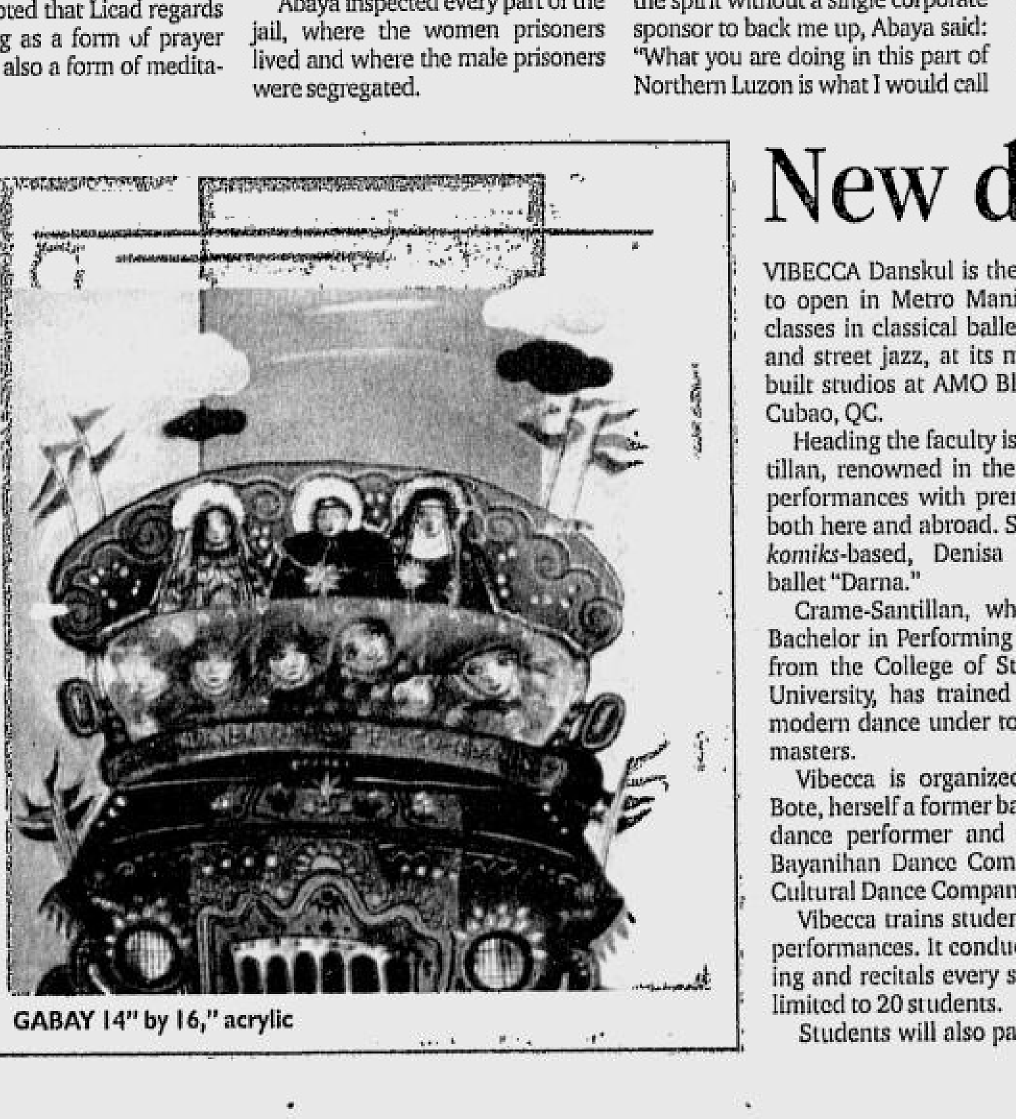
Bagtas celebrates Obando

RENAISSANCE Art Gallery presents "Paglalakbay," the first solo show of artist Aris Cecilio Bagtas.

On exhibit are Bagtas' acrylic renditions of the various scenes that are staples of celebrations in his hometown of Obando, Bulacan. From the usual raucous fiesta to the more contemplative Panata and Prusisyon, Bagtas captures with vibrant colors the intensity of the very Filipino essence in these traditions.

These vivid hues also speak strongly of his passion and desire for the further upliftment of Philippine art.

"Paglalakbay" opens on Sept. 19 at 6 p.m. Renaissance Art Gallery is at the 4th level, Building A, SM Megamall. Call 0918-4428611.



GABAY 14" by 16," acrylic

New dance school

VIBECCA Danskul is the newest dance school to open in Metro Manila. It holds Saturday classes in classical ballet, modern ballet, jazz and street jazz, at its modern, professionally built studios at AMO Bldg., 92 New York St., Cubao, QC.

Heading the faculty is Christine Crame-Santillan, renowned in the artistic scene for her performances with premier ballet companies both here and abroad. She was the lead of the *komiks*-based, Denisa Reyes-choreographed ballet "Darna."

Crame-Santillan, who holds a degree of Bachelor in Performing Arts, major in Dance, from the College of St. Benilde-De La Salle University, has trained in both classical and modern dance under top Filipino and foreign masters.

Vibecca is organized by Virginia Lagula-Bote, herself a former ballet dancer, Polynesian dance performer and member of both the Bayanihan Dance Company and the Pacifica Cultural Dance Company.

Vibecca trains students intensively through performances. It conducts personalized teaching and recitals every six months. Classes are limited to 20 students.

Students will also participate in dance concerts and competitions abroad.

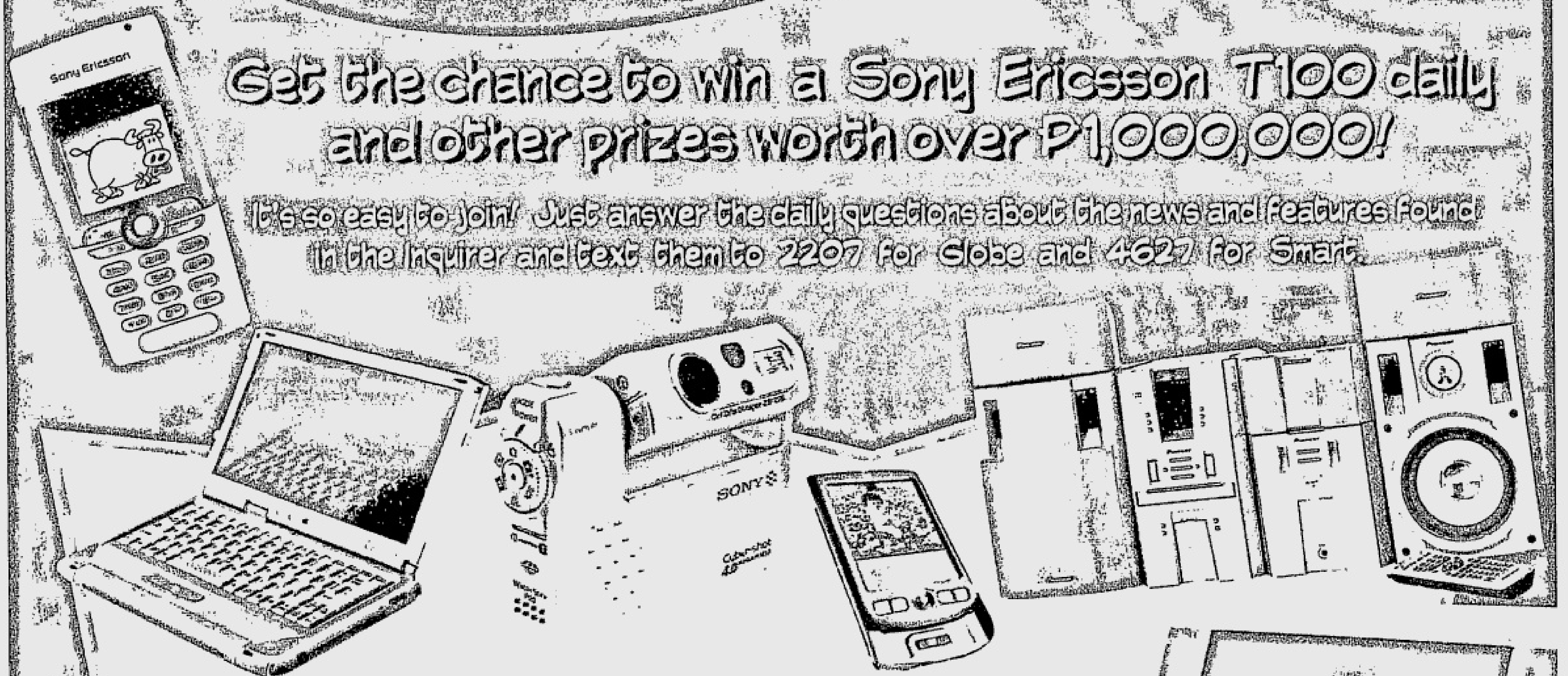
CHRISTINE Crame Santillan (left) teaches at Vibecca Danskul.

Tuition is P1,300 a month for four one-hour sessions. One-month scholarships will be awarded to the first 100 applicants accepted. Call at 9124283 and 9126781.

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

what's news

TXT game



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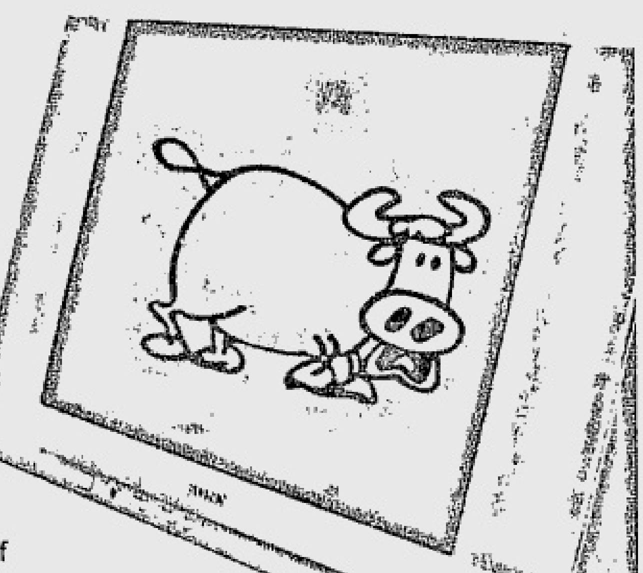
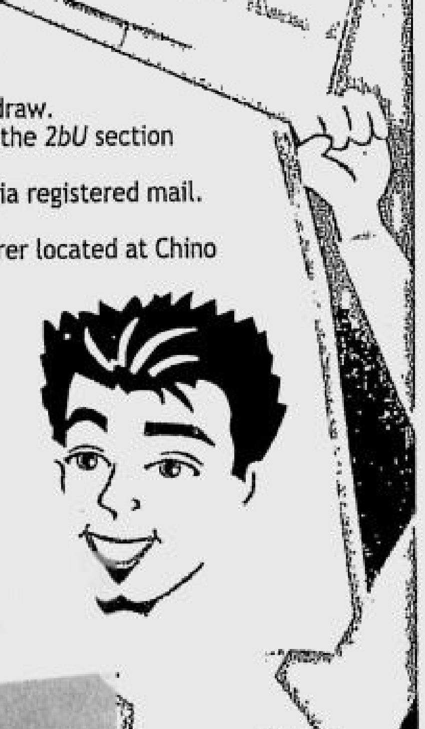


PROMO MECHANICS
- Promo is open to all Globe and Smart Subscribers.
- Promo period is from July 27 to September 24, 2003.
- TO JOIN: text PDI to 2207 for Globe subscribers or 4627 for Smart subscribers. Joining the promo is free.
- TO REGISTER: text PDI REG FULL NAME/ADDRESS/BIRTHDAY (Ex. PDI REG Ed Santos/22 Lira St. BF Homes/120873) and send to 2207 for Globe subscribers or 4627 for Smart subscribers. Registration is free.
- TO ANSWER: text PDI ANS <letters of your choice> and send to 2207 for Globe subscribers or 4627 for Smart subscribers. Ex. PDI ANS A/B/C/D
- 5 daily multiple-choice questions will be placed in a daily ad published in the Inquirer.
- Questions every Wednesday and Saturday will be taken from the *2bU* and *Saturday Special Super* sections. All other questions will be general questions about youth trivia and the Inquirer.
- Each correct answer will earn the participant one raffle entry.
- Answer fifteen (15) questions correctly and receive an invite to join the INQUIRER READERS CLUB.
- Your mobile number will serve as your raffle entry.
- HOW TO ACCUMULATE RAFFLE ENTRIES:
  TRIVIA: Each correct answer gives you 1 raffle entry.
  DOWNLOAD GUYITO: Each download gives you 10 raffle entries. You can only download a maximum of 10 Guyitos during the promo period.

DAILY RAFFLE DRAW
- The prize is a SONY ERICSSON T100 MOBILE PHONE.
- There will be SIXTY (60) WINNERS for the total duration of the promo.
- Deadline of entries for the daily draw is from 12:00AM to 11:59PM.
- A DTI representative will be present for the raffle draws.
- Daily winners will be drawn EVERY SATURDAY at The Philippine Daily Inquirer Building, Chino Roces Avenue (Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City at 10:00AM from August 2 to September 27, 2003.
- A participant can only win one daily prize during the promo period.
- A daily prize winner will still be qualified for the grand draw.

GRAND RAFFLE DRAW
- The prize is a TECHIE PACKAGE consisting of:
  - Fujitsu Life Book P1120
  - Palm Zire 71
  - Pioneer DVD Mini Compo EV-51
  - Sony CTV KVXA29N90
  - Sony Cybershot DSC F-77
  - Sony Ericsson T310 with CommuniCam™
- There will be only ONE (1) WINNER of the Techie package.
- There will be THIRTY-FIVE (35) CONSOLATION PRIZE WINNERS of P10,000 each.
- A participant can only win once in the grand draw. If a name is drawn more than once, he gets the bigger prize.
- Deadline of entries is until 11:59PM of September 24, 2003.
- Grand raffle draw will be aired on Sept. 28, 2003 between 2:30PM to 4:00PM on GMA-7.
- A DTI representative will be present for the grand raffle draw.
- A print ad with the names of all winners will come out in the *2bU* section of the Inquirer on October 1, 2003.
- All winners will be notified via telephone call as well as via registered mail. **Winners are never sent text messages.**
- All winners can claim their prizes at Philippine Daily Inquirer located at Chino Roces Ave. corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City.
- All winners must show valid identification (e.g., Drivers license, SSS, etc.) and the SIM card used to participate.
- Winners will have 60 days to claim their prizes.
- Employees of Globe Telecommunications, Inc., Smart Communications, Inc.,Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inq7 Interactive, Inc., and Harrison Communications and its agencies, as well as relatives up to second degree the of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining.



Sony Ericsson

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1975 Series of 2003

SEVENTEEN-year-old Monique (standing, left) with Baby Barredo (kneeling, left) and Bibot Amador (center) in "Nunsense" (1987)

BIBOT Amador and 14-year-old Monique in "A Little Night Music" (1984)

On stage with my stage moms

From page G1

a child actress at Repertory Philippines.

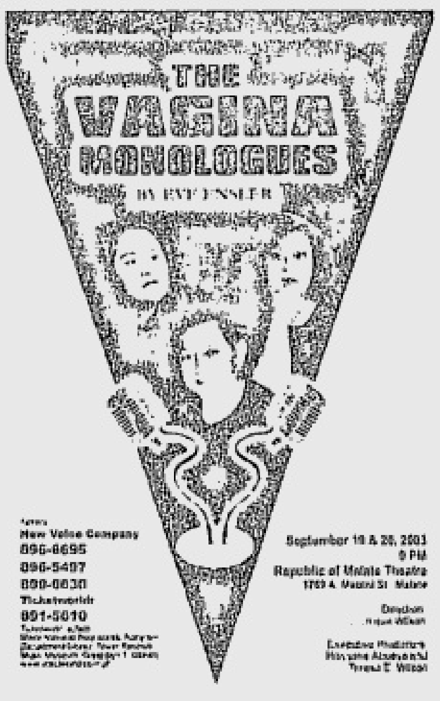
They will join me onstage for the third anniversary staging of "The Vagina Monologues." Nothing can be more exciting for me than this.

The first time I performed onstage with Tita Bibot was in 1980—in the musical "Annie," where I joined the repeat run while taking a summer acting workshop at Rep. She was Miss Hannigan and I was the baby orphan Molly.

I remember my very first opening night, lying on the set listening to the orchestra play the overture before the curtains rose—I was feeling so excited. I was all of 9 years old.

I was "discovered" at a party of Tita Celia (Laurel), where I was hoisted on top of the piano to sing. That was when my theater life began, and the beginning of many moments on stage I would share with Tita Bibot and Tita Baby.

Then came "The Sound of Music," where I played one of the Von Trapp children; "South Pacific," and then a succession of other musicals and plays for the next 10 years.



PLAYBILL of the stage reunion of Amador, Barredo and Wilson

Screamer

I remember Tita Bibot screaming at my brother and me at rehearsals for not being able to laugh in one scene. I remember as an 11-year-old, thinking, "How can we laugh if you keep screaming at us?"

But the constant demand for discipline paid off. By the time I was 14, I was doing back-to-back shows at Rep.

When there were no roles for me and my siblings (although I would practically beg them to cast me even as an extra), we would be in the production crew, selling programs outside, ushering the audience or doing lights and sounds.

I proudly tell the young NVC actors now that I am an expert spotter (one who holds the spotlight) as I did that for many years at Rep. It was fun even when there were sleepless nights and hours and hours of backbreaking work.

When I was nine, a typical day would be like this: School from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; rehearsal for the next show from 4:30 to 7 p.m.; performance of the current show from 8 to 10:30 p.m.; and, sometimes, more rehearsals from 11 p.m. to early morning, if we were preparing for a big musical.

By the time I was 14, Tita Bibot had made me teach summer workshops (for kids aged 3 to 14—the oldest being my age), and I had 52 students in my first class, with no assistant!

That's how much she believed in me. We were never treated like kids, instead, we were always treated like professional adult actors.

There was no such thing as an excused absence. Typhoons, exams and illnesses were no reasons to miss rehearsals or be late.

Tita Bibot used to say, "Even if you are dying, it is no excuse to be late—I will only excuse you if you're dead."

By the time I did "Miss Saigon" at 19 and more than 50 Rep productions later, the schedule in London seemed so easy compared to what we were used to at Rep.

TOP: 12-year-old Monique (kneeling, left) with Bibot Amador (center) and company in "Once a Catholic" (1983). Left: 11-year-old Monique with Baby Barredo and brother Jamie in "South Pacific" (1981)

Relentless

Tita Bibot and the Rep were relentless in their demand for commitment, discipline, dedication and hard work. This served us well—many of us who had gone on to run our own theater companies.

When I set up the New Voice Company nine years ago, and 14 years after I first joined Repertory, I began to understand Tita Bibot and Tita Baby's methods.

When the theater industry faces such large obstacles as in a country like ours, the most important thing is to establish a solid foundation in your artists—a foundation and training that can withstand the difficult times, that can persevere through any circumstance and sustain the standard of theater and be able to pass this on to generations of artists and theater-goers to come.

So, when Tita Bibot and Tita Baby said yes they would join me on stage for "The Vagina Monologues" Sept. 19 and 20, I knew that the production would not just be a play that spoke of women empowerment but would also be a performance of women clearly and defiantly embodying that.

Being on the same stage as these women will be significant not just because of the fact that I, most obviously, got a lot of my courage from them. It will be a thrill for me as an artist to share the stage with fellow artists and women whom I love and respect; or to be directing my mentors, inspired by the faith and trust they have in me.

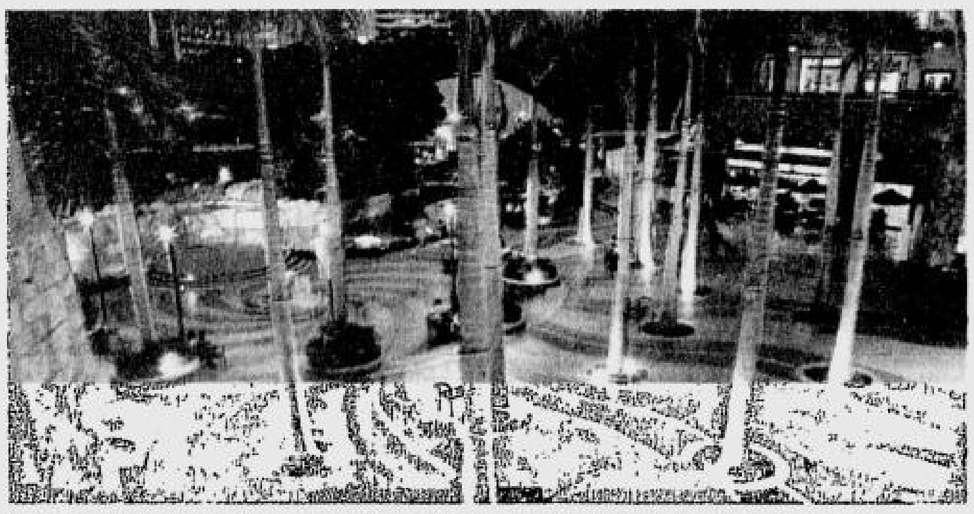
It will be a culmination of the years of training and nurturing they gave me as an artist, the preparation they gave me as a director and artistic director of my own company. Great theater lives on, and people who love theater so much want to share it and pass it on.

I thank them for their wisdom, their knowledge and the years of discipline they instilled in me, for their patience and love. Like "The Vagina Monologues" that has changed so many lives, 10 years with Tita Baby and Tita Bibot in the theater changed mine.

Sept. 19th—being on stage with them 23 years after we first worked together, is a one in a million moment, indeed.

"The Vagina Monologues" will run at the new Republic of Malate Theatre on Sept. 19 and 20 at 9 p.m. Call the New Voice Company Actors Studio at 8966695 or 8990630, or Ticketworld at 8915610. Tickets are also available at all Ticketworld outlets.

Communities in snapshots



LIGHTS frame trees and waters in the Greenbelt Park for personalized recreation, seamless shopping and delightful dining.

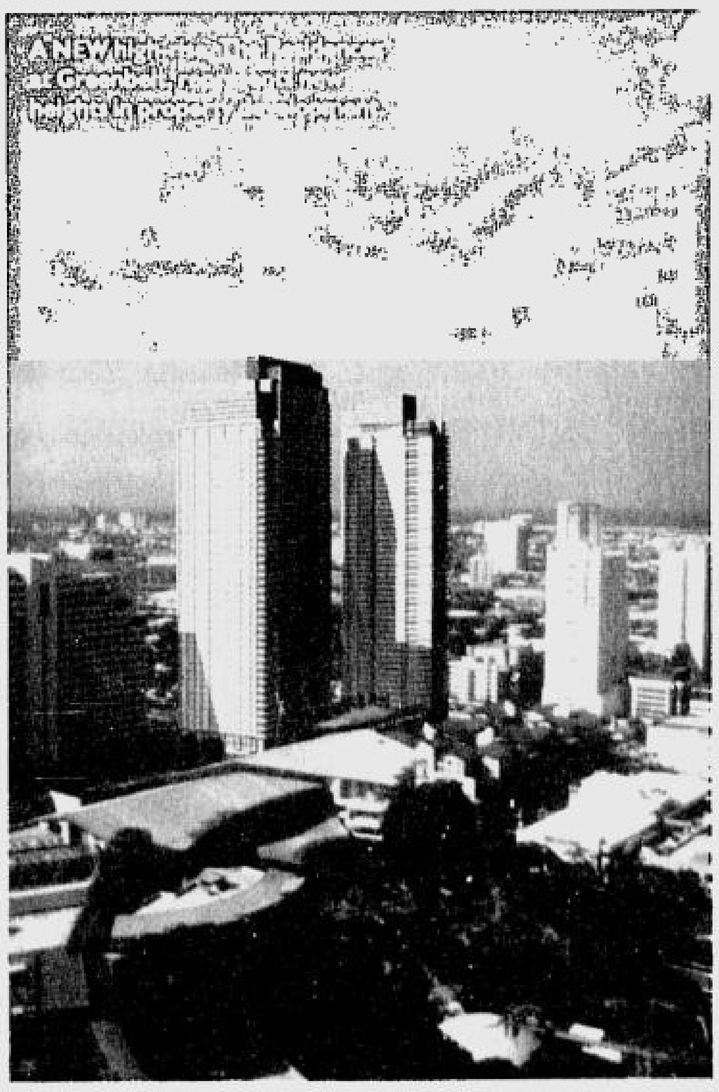
GREEN grass and silent waters are witnesses to weekend joys.

THE SHOPPERS, the strollers, the tourists and the ticket-takers. These are among the people whose lives have been touched by communities developed by the Ayala Land Inc. (Ali) in the past 15 years.

A photo exhibit depicting images of life in Ayala Land communities opens Sept. 16 at the Ali headquarters in Ayala Tower One in Makati, and moves to the Ayala Center two weeks after. The exhibit is one of the features of the Ali 15th-year celebration which carries the theme "You Keep Dreaming, We'll Keep Building."

Noting the home, business and leisure needs of Filipinos all over the country, the Ayala Land has moved in the last 15 years to provide quality developments for the widest range of sectors ever serviced by a full-line Philippine real estate corporation.

YOUNG men and women of Ayala Land find fulfillment in planning new communities.



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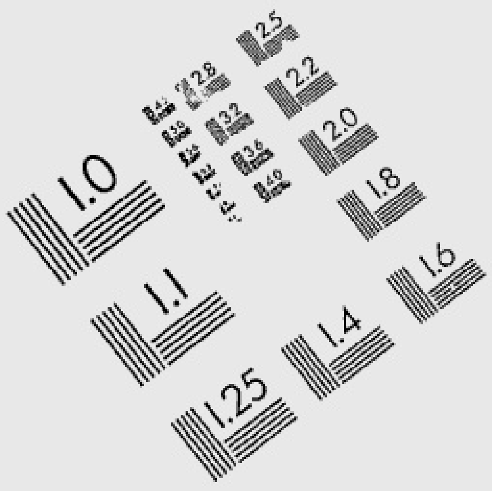
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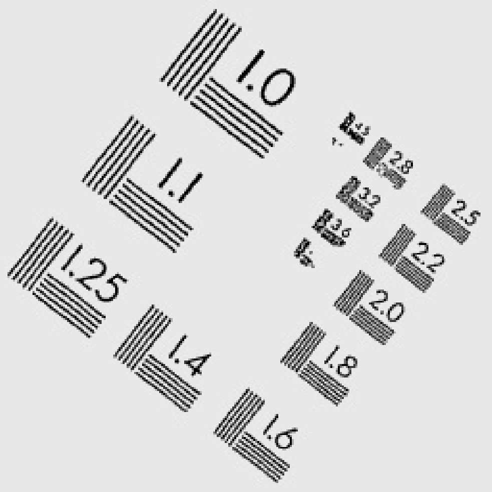
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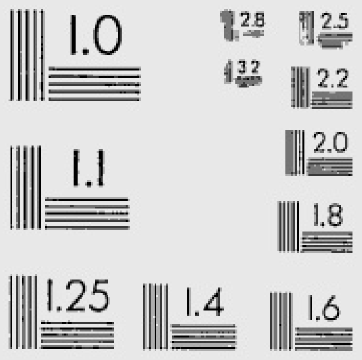
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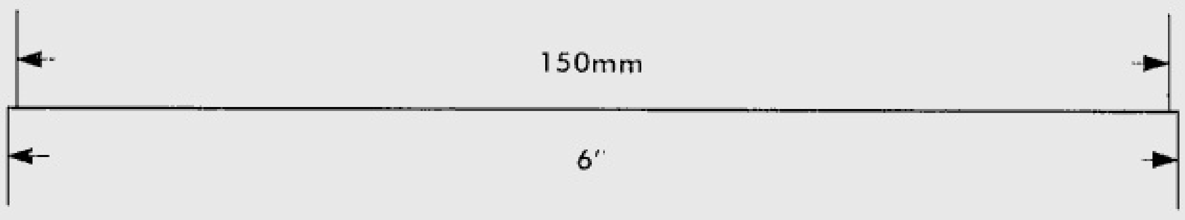

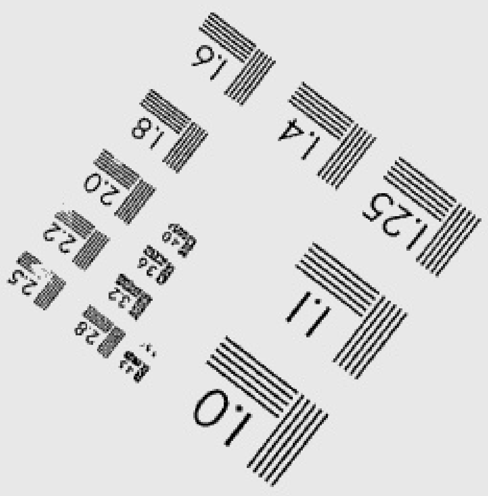
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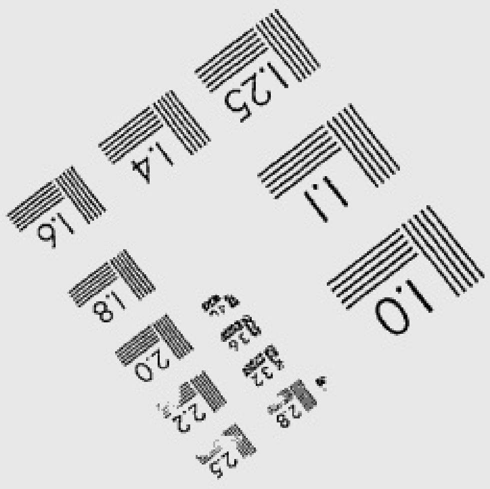
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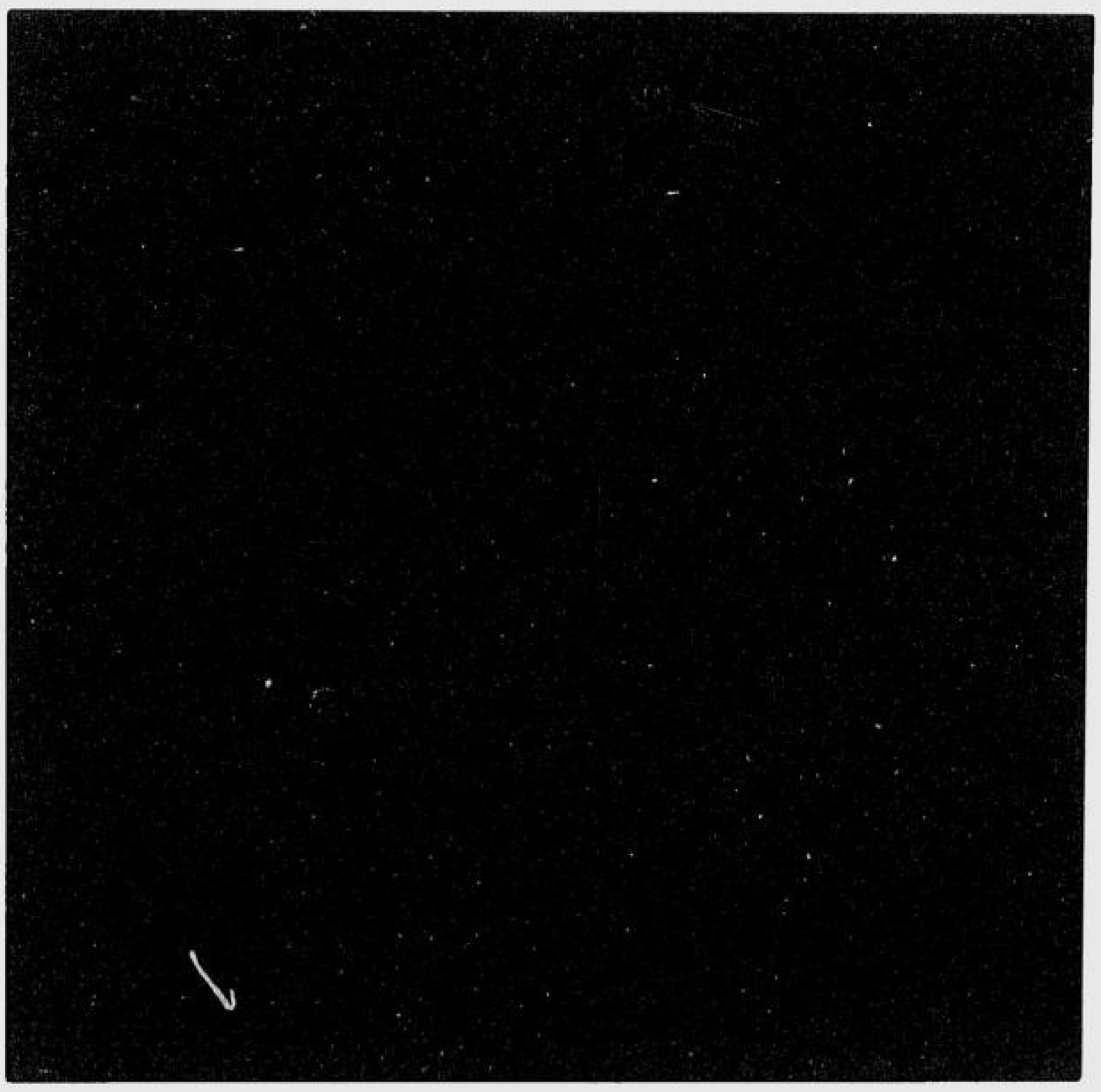

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METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES

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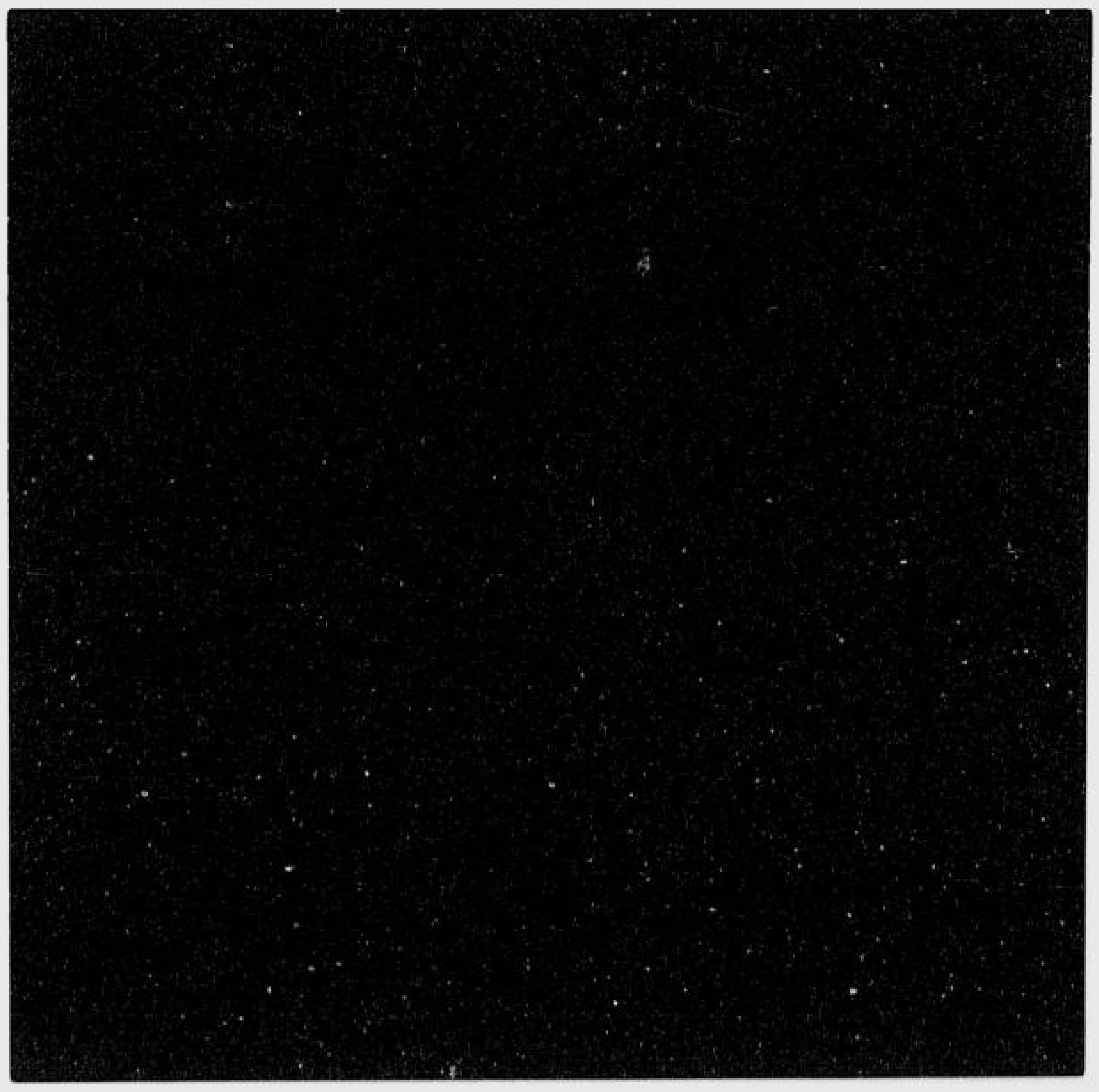

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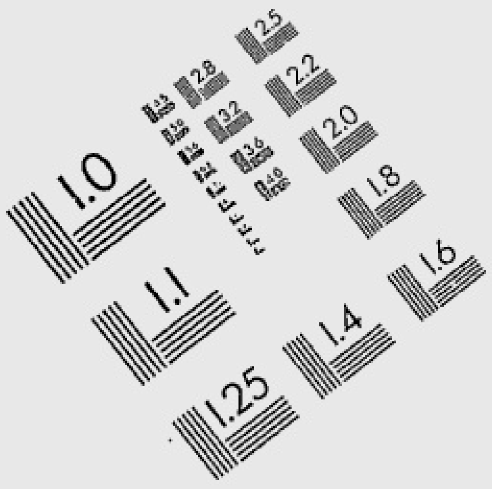
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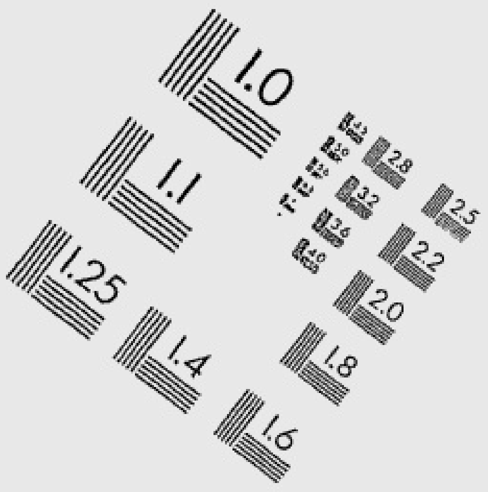
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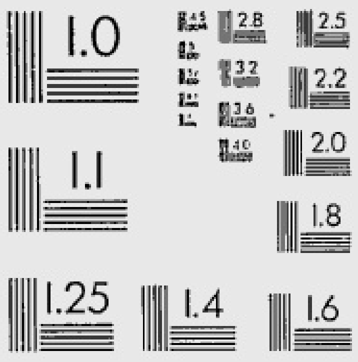
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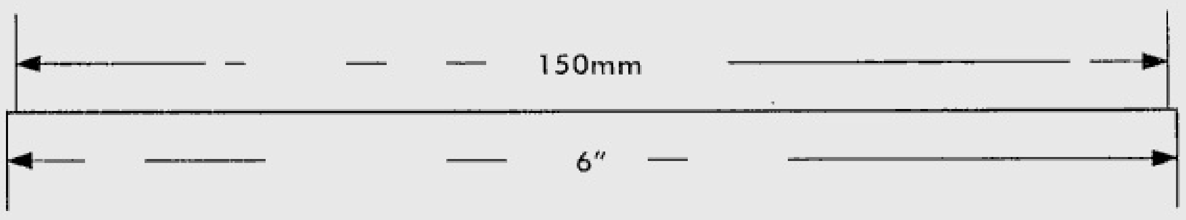

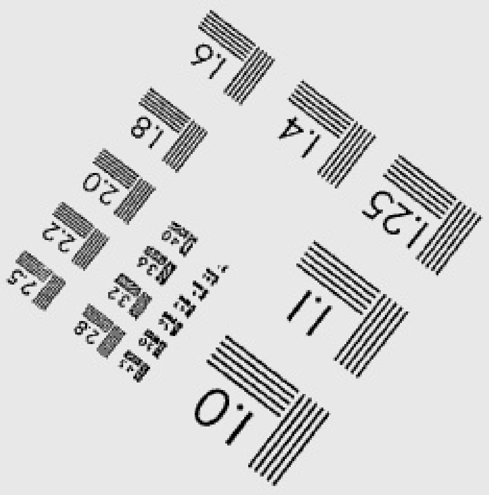
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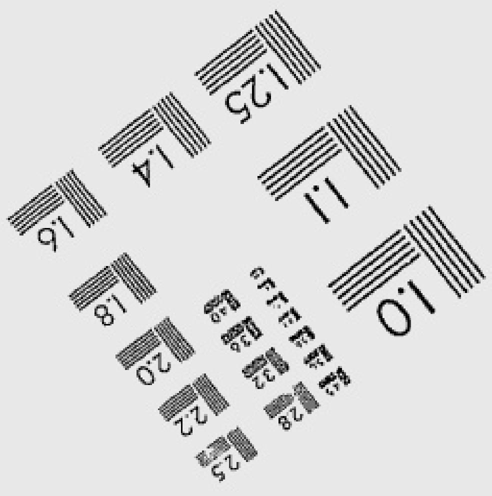
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Bush security team arrives to check out visit sites

Story on PAGE A2

Pidal probe to continue; privacy issue unsettled

By Michael Lim Ubac and Christine O. Avendaño

THE CHAIRS of the three Senate committees investigating the controversial Jose Pidal accounts yesterday failed to reach a decision on the main issue vexing the probe: whether the President's brother-in-law, Ignacio Arroyo, can invoke his right to privacy.

PIDAL/A15

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Fil-Am trader: Lacson rich enough to pay me

By Philip C. Tubeza and Christine O. Avendaño

A US-BASED businesswoman yesterday charged that Sen. Panfilo Lacson had amassed enough wealth to pay at least $3 million in damages awarded to her by a California court for blocking a handcuffs deal she had with the Philippine National Police in the 1990s.

FIL-AM/A16

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Tuesday, September 16, 2003 ★★ 44 pages / 4 sections / vol. 18 / no. 280 P15 website: www.inq7.net

ROMY HORMILLADA

CARDINAL SIN: I beg pardon (from) those I might have led astray or hurt . . . Please remember me kindly.

Lipa bishop replaces Sin

End of era: Cardinal of 2 Edsas bows out

By Jerome Aning *in Manila*
and Mei Magsino, *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

FROM the prophet of People Power to the sacred scourge of illegal loggers.

Pope John Paul II yesterday accepted the resignation of the most influential bishop in the country's history, Jaime Cardinal Sin. In his stead, the Pope named Most Rev. Gaudencio Rosales, archbishop of Lipa, Batangas, for the past 10 years, as the new archbishop of Manila.

Sin, who played a pivotal role in the ouster of two corruption-stained presidents, turned 75 last Aug. 31. Rosales, who as bishop of Malaybalay, Bukidnon, in the 1980s fought illegal logging syndicates, turned 71 on Aug. 10.

The choice of Rosales was welcomed by both Roman Catholic Church officials and church workers.

"I think he is the right person for Manila at this time," said Archbishop of Davao Fernando Capalla, "because he is a good spiritual leader, [something] which is also needed in that place at this time." Capalla is the incoming president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

The Pope's announcement was relayed by papal nuncio Archbishop Antonio Franco to Fr. James Reuter, SJ, head of the National Office of Mass Media, the CBCP media bureau.

The acceptance of Sin's resignation was officially published at noon on Monday at the Vatican (6 p.m. yesterday in Manila). The INQUIRER heard about the

LIPA/A16

BISHOP ROSALES: "The right person for Manila at this time."

PDI PHOTO

Rich vs poor: World trade talks collapse

CANCUN, Mexico—World trade talks vital for the global economy collapsed in Mexico on Sunday after rich and poor states fought bitterly over farm reform and new rules to slash red tape and corruption.

It was the biggest defeat for trade liberalization since a chaotic meeting in Seattle in 1999 was rocked by violent street protests and a similar revolt by poor countries.

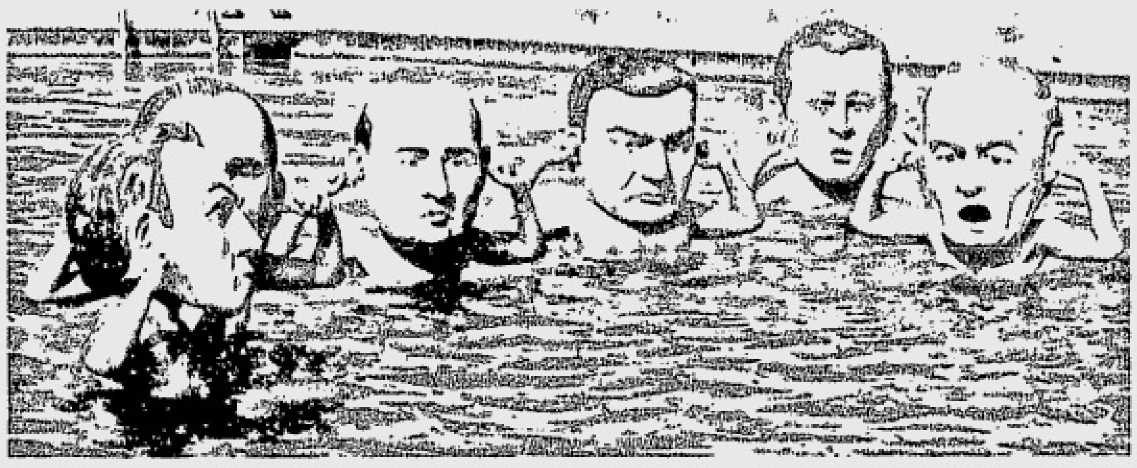
Rival blocs clashed over agriculture for five days at the World Trade Organization meeting in Cancun and talks finally died when poor countries refused to discuss new rules aimed at cutting the bureaucracy and backhanders that hurt trade.

The WTO played down what it termed a "setback," the United States blamed some delegations it did not name for refusing to compromise, while developing countries celebrated their new-found strength.

"The meeting did not come to a successful conclusion," Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim said after five days and nights of sometimes bitter bargaining between the 146 WTO member-states.

But, speaking on behalf of more than 20 colleagues, Amorim said the conference was a vic-

RICH/A15



WHO'S LISTENING? Members of the British nongovernment organization Oxfam lampoon leaders of the G8 countries during an event held on the sidelines of the World Trade Organization meeting in Cancun, Mexico, on Sunday.

REUTERS

'No deal is better than a bad deal'

By Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Norman Bordadora

PHILIPPINE negotiators, activists and businessmen are taking the collapse of the World Trade Organization negotiations in Cancun, Mexico, as a "positive development" for the country.

"No deal is better than having a bad deal for us which is why we think the deadlock is generally positive for the country," Trade Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said in a phone interview yesterday.

Roxas and Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr. are in Cancun as the country's chief negotiators in the WTO talks.

Lorenzo said the status quo was better than the ambivalent doublespeak of the United States and the European Union during the trade negotiations.

"We want all or nothing.... The alliance wants it specific and in writing," Lorenzo said in pushing for the Third World agenda, including the protection of special products and safeguard mechanisms.

The position of the Philippine trade negotiators earned praises from the Stop the New Round Coalition (SNR), a group of social

NO DEAL/A15

GMA: Probe politicos' links to bank robberies

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Christian V. Esguerra

FOLLOWING the spate of recent bank robberies, President Macapagal-Arroyo went to police headquarters yesterday and ordered an investigation of reports that the heists were part of the fund-raising activities of politicians for the May national elections.

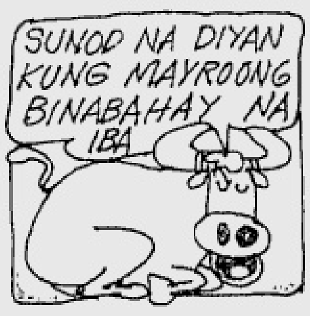
The President also ordered the Philippine National Police to "get to the bottom" of the robbery of a night club in Quezon City said to be frequented by police officials.

"It is already bad for the police image that a high-profile nightspot is robbed, and it is worse that this place is being tagged as a hangout of police officials," the President said.

At the flag-raising ceremony at Camp Crame, Ms Macapagal called politicians engaged in crime "a bane to many nations, especially in the developing world, and a threat to democratic societies."

"The people must be aware of this threat and our people must

GMA/A5



SUNOD NA DIYAN KUNG MAYROONG BINABAHAY NA IBA

'Nightlife' checks next for execs

By Armand N. Nocum

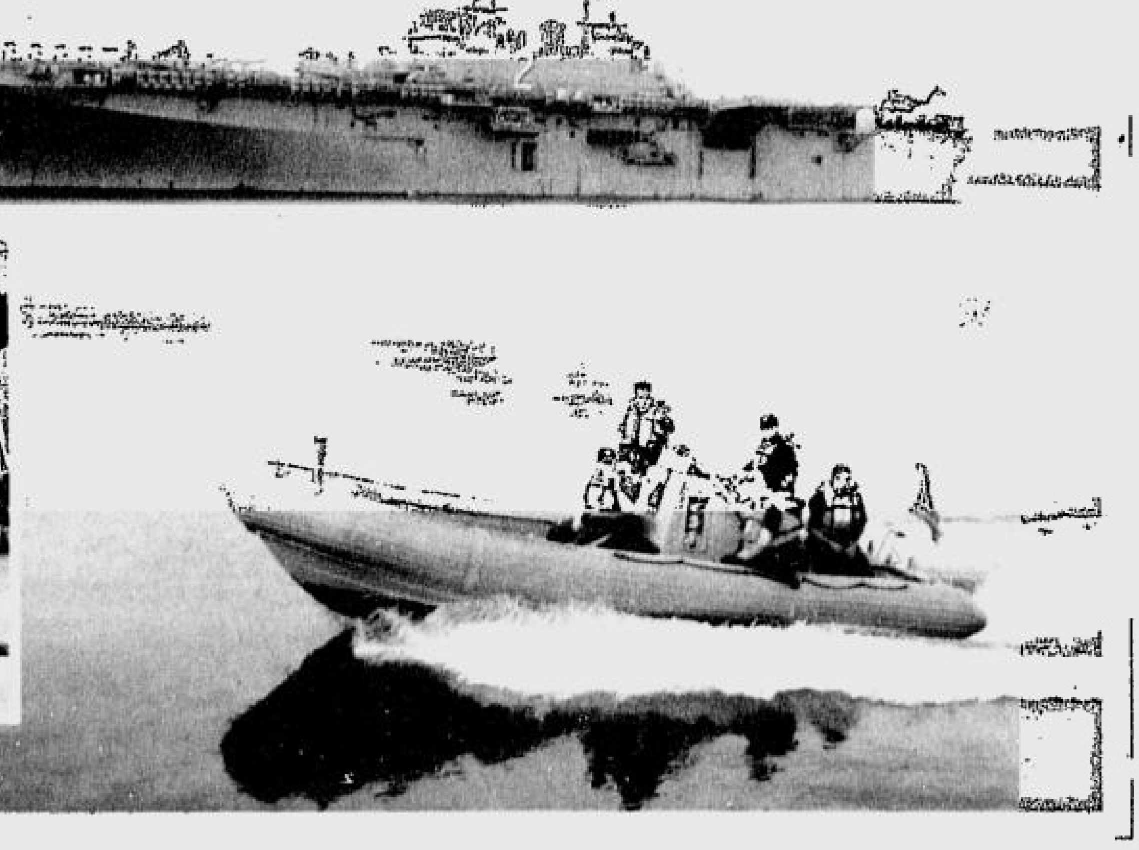
"NIGHTLIFE" checks are next.

The Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) is expanding the lifestyle checks on government officials to include their R&R. And this doesn't mean after-dinner strolls on the Baywalk along Roxas Boule-

'NIGHTLIFE'/A5

AMERICAN MIGHT
US sailors in patrol craft guard the aircraft carrier USS Essex now docked at the former American naval base in Subic. About 1,500 US Marines are in the Philippines for a weeklong military exercise with Filipino soldiers.

AP



AN ADVANCE team of US Secret Service agents inspects the Batasan building where US President Bush will address a joint session of the Philippine Congress. *(Story on Page A2.)*

JOAN BONDOC

Work starts at 5 a.m. for some at DepEd

By Dona Pazzibugan

SOME employees of the Department of Education have been ordered to report for work at 5 a.m.

The unusual order came last Thursday after Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus took the Education and Information Division (EID) to task for unflattering news reports about the department.

De Jesus wants the EID to furnish him with newspaper clippings much earlier, according to sources at the DepEd. He reportedly complained that he was often caught unaware about the stories of the day.

On Friday, members of the EID staff were informed that they would have three-hour "overtime" work, which would require them to report at 5 a.m. The

WORK/A4

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/16/03

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FRONTPAGE

Secret Service checks out sites

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Christian V. Esguerra and Cynthia D. Balana

US EMBASSY officials, Secret Service agents and Philippine police officers inspect the grounds of the House of Representatives in Quezon City, one of places to be visited by President Bush in the country.

JOAN BONDOC

MAXIMUM security measures will be enforced during the brief state visit of US President George W. Bush next month, President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday.

"We are taking proactive steps and beefing up intelligence gathering and surveillance. We will leave no stone unturned to ensure that his trip to the country will be safe, fruitful and rewarding," Ms Macapagal added.

The US leader is to make an eight-hour visit to Manila on Oct. 18 en route to Bangkok for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit.

At Malacañang and a nearby guest house, nearly two dozen US agents yesterday inspected the grounds and some rooms, officials said.

US Secret Service officials met with security and protocol officers in Malacanang, according to presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye.

Some 40 US Secret Service agents and US Embassy protocol officers yesterday inspected the sprawling grounds of the House of Representatives in Quezon City, where Bush is expected to address a joint session of Congress.

They left a list of security requirements, including a holding room for the US leader, a communications room and a joint check on people attending the event, said House Secretary-General Roberto Nazareno.

The US Secret Service agents, who arrived in six vehicles, toured the House premises, including the Session Hall and the adjacent Mitra Building.

The US security personnel were part of the advance party of the US President.

"Maximum security measures are set for President Bush's visit," the President said in a speech at the Philippine National Police headquarters at Camp Crame.

Ms Macapagal said she expects the PNP to be on its toes for the visit of the "leader of the most powerful nation in the world" and of the global coalition against terrorism, of which the Philippines is a key ally.

PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. declined to discuss the security preparations but belittled the possibility of any untoward incident happening during the visit.

"We are prepared," he told reporters at a press conference after the President's visit to Crame.

Police and military authorities have been placed on high alert for possible terrorist attacks during Bush's visit, officials said.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople, who is in charge of preparations for the visit, said protests by leftist groups during the Bush visit are to be expected.

"Preparations are being undertaken to ensure that such protest actions remain lawful and peaceful," Ople said.

Sources privy to the preparations for the visit said the US President's Air Force One will touch down on Oct. 18 at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport at around 12:30 a.m. Bush will then be accorded a 21-gun salute.

From Naia, the US President will proceed to Malacañang for the welcome ceremonies. He will then pay a courtesy call on Ms Macapagal and discuss vital isssues affecting Philippine-US relations under the "Presidents' Hour" which is expected to last two hours. *With AFP, AP reports*

Dev't plan for South would bring in US forces, say militants

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE MINI-MARSHALL Plan proposed by US President George W. Bush for Mindanao after the Philippine government shall have signed a peace pact with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) includes the establishment of American military facilities in the region, militants said yesterday.

Fernando Hicap, national chair of the fisherfolk group Pamalakaya, said the mini-Marshall Plan would pave the way for a strong US role in the development of Mindanao.

He said this was similar to what happened in Okinawa, Japan after the US converted the area into a military base.

"The US' post-conflict role in Mindanao will be pushed by Bush in time for his state visit next month," Hicap said. "Washington's main agenda for the visit is definitely this Okinawa-like mini-Marshall Plan in Mindanao."

The original Marshall Plan was conceived after World War II when the US poured massive aid into the war-torn countries of Europe.

Hicap warned the plan would transform Mindanao into the new Okinawa, hosting military facilities and thousands of American troops.

Several years ago, the United States military built a deep-sea port and world-class airport in Sarangani province in Mindanao to the consternation of many. It has yet to make full use of the facilities.

"Malacañang and foreign affairs officials have been denying this but we maintain that President Bush will be bringing this [mini-Marshall Plan] up during his 8-hour visit to the country on Oct. 18," Hicap said.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople has denied that the frequent visits of top US military officials to the country since last month had anything to do with the renewed interest of Washington in establishing military facilities in Mindanao.

According to Pamalakaya, the mini-Marshall Plan would include economic projects to be undertaken by US transnational companies but its aim is the establishment of military facilities and the deployment of US troops.

US agrees to share info on Hambali

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE UNITED States has formally agreed to grant the Philippines' request for access to information from captured Indonesian terrorist Hambali, Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople said yesterday.

Ople said that US Secretary of State Colin Powell confirmed the US government's approval of the Philippine request in a letter dated Sept. 12.

"The US, which is in the process of interrogating Hambali and verifying the information obtained from him, has agreed to provide us with any information that would help us in our own fight against terrorism as well as information that might help save lives in the Philippines," Ople said.

The US also made a commitment to cooperate with Manila in relation to Washington's investigation into the activities of Hambali. But the US declined to allow Filipino investigators to directly question him, Ople said.

"I understand that because Hambali's interrogation is ongoing, and because of the need to conduct his interrogation in a carefully controlled environment, direct access to Hambali at this time is not possible," he said.

Hambali, born Riduan Isamuddin, was arrested by Thai and US authorities in Thailand in mid-August and is being held at an undisclosed location.

After Hambali's arrest, the Philippines formally asked the United States to be allowed access to the Islamic militant.

"There are many questions that our authorities would like to ask and the United States has agreed to pose these questions to Hambali," Ople said, including information which Hambali might have on the LRT bombings.

Ople added that he has asked justice, security and intelligence agencies to prepare a set of questions to put to Hambali.

Hambali has been indicted in the Philippines for his alleged involvement in the Dec. 30, 2000 bombing of the Light Rail Transit in Manila which killed 22 people. An arrest warrant has been issued against him.

Indonesian JI militant Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, also charged with the LRT bombing, had earlier told prosecutors that Hambali provided the funds to buy the explosives used in the attacks.

Al-Ghozi, however, escaped from a police jail in July, triggering a security alert across the region. *With wire reports*

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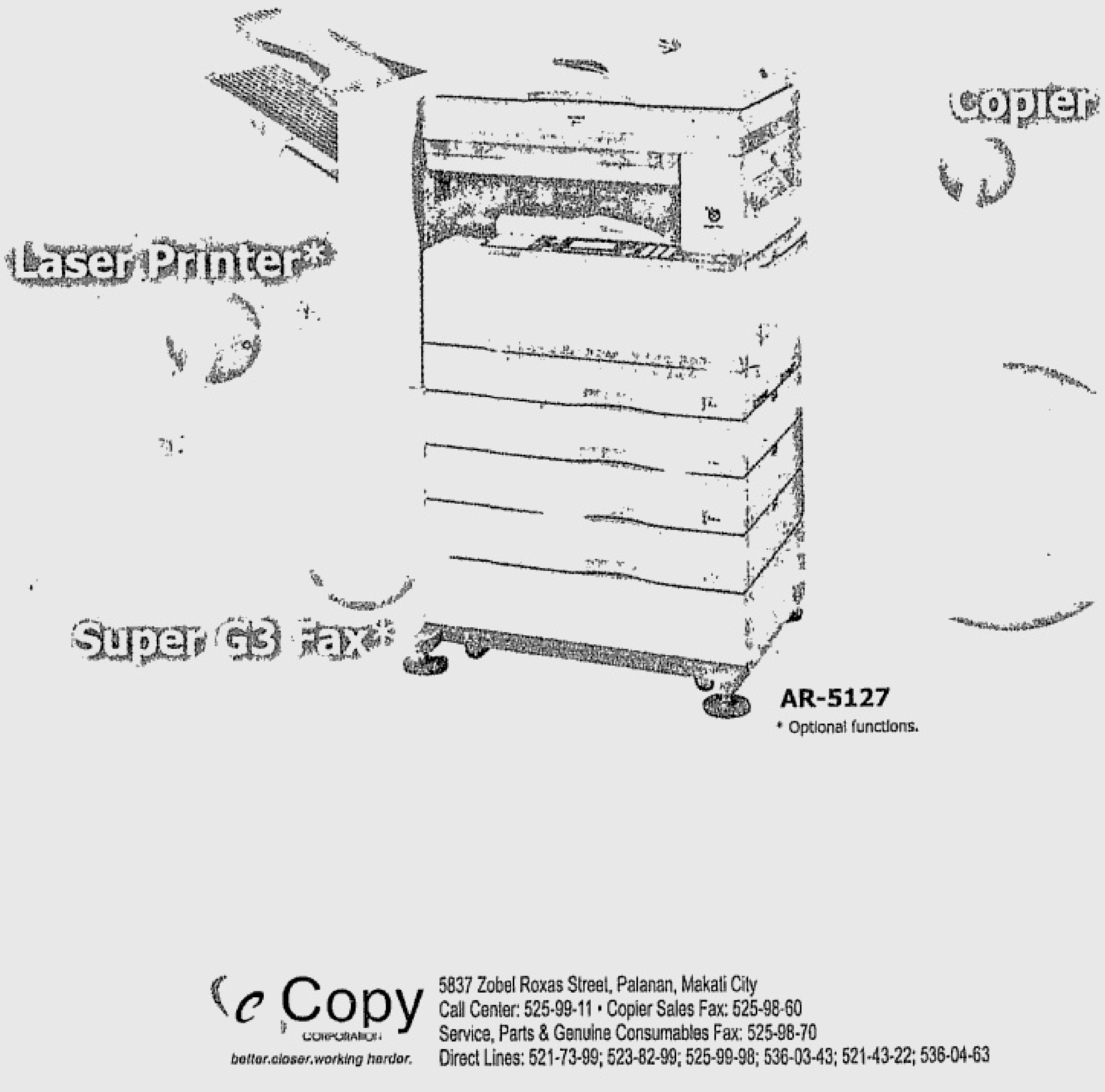

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With Malolos backdrop, Gloria rallies nation round 'strong republic'

MALOLOS CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo found the 105th anniversary of the Malolos Congress yesterday a suitable occasion to remind people of the value of unity amid threats of destabilization against the government.

In an address that she delivered entirely in Filipino, Ms Macapagal reiterated her desire for a "strong republic."

"*Sinisikap nating maging malakas ang ating republika bilang pagpapatuloy ng rebolusyon na sinimulan ni* (Andres) Bonifacio *at binigyan ng demokrasya ng ating mga niriuno sa* Malolos convention. *Upang maging malakas ang ating republika, kailangan nating labanan ang iba't-ibang hadlang sa ating pag-unlad kagaya ng kahirapan, terorismo at kriminalidad* (We are strengthening our republic in order to continue the revolution started by Bonifacio, which our ancestors shaped into democracy through the Malolos convention. We should fight various obstacles to our progress—poverty, terrorism and criminality)," she said.

Ms Macapagal cited the contribution of Malolos to the birth of democracy in Asia, saying it was here that the region's first Constitution was crafted on Sept. 15, 1898. Yesterday's commemoration culminated the celebration of "Linggo ng Bulacan (Bulacan Week)."

"*Ang hinihingi ng kasalukuyang panahon ay magpamalas tayo ng pagka-makabayan at manindigan para sa kapayapaan, pagkakaisa at demokrasya* (The times demand that we demonstrate our patriotism and stand our ground for peace, unity and democracy)," the President told 500 officials and Bulacan residents at the historic Barasoain Church.

The President also exhorted the national police leadership yet again to be vigilant in their duty to protect the Constitution. She said she had ordered police officials to identify the brains behind the recent spate of crimes, and determine if there is a connection between criminal elements and politicians.

"*Kailangan magbuo tayo ng ebidensiya ... at iwasan ang* witch hunting (We should gather evidence and avoid witch hunts)," she said.

Emphatically, she warned against glorifying "ruthless leaders masquerading as temples of reform or good governance," and against paying attention to politics more than to the country's urgent problems.

Drowning

In Pangasinan, Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz echoed this sentiment, saying the country was "drowning" because public officials "politicized" everything.

Cruz, in a statement, said politics had become the country's "biggest bane—a social asset turned into a liability, an art in governance converted to a low-intensity war."

He bewailed the "politicizing of marriage," obviously referring to the First Couple's supposed marital problems.

Cruz saved the best for last, discussing the "politicizing of prayer" in terms of a recent prayer rally where, he recalled, Ms Macapagal asked God to tell those who wanted to seize power "to wait for their turn."

This "disuniting prayer for unity," he said, was "the height of politicization." *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk, with a report from Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Exploratory talks with Reds set

THE GOVERNMENT will hold "exploratory talks" with communist insurgents this month in Norway ahead of possibly resuming formal peace negotiations, an official said Monday.

The government's chief peace negotiator, Silvestre Bello, said the talks were likely to be held on Sept. 20 and 21 in Oslo, which has hosted previous peace talks between the two sides.

Bello dismissed press reports that the exiled leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) had threatened to walk away from the peace table unless they were removed from a US and European list of foreign terrorist organizations.

"It is not a condition," Bello said of the insurgents' reported demand.

President Macapagal-Arroyo suspended talks with the communists after their armed wing, the New People's Army, assassinated two politicians in 2001.

Last month, however, she gave the go-ahead for government negotiators to engage communist leaders in behind-the-scenes negotiations and said she was confident of the prospects for formal talks to resume.

The CPP has been waging a Maoist rebellion in rural Philippines since 1969. It was placed on the international watch list in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on the United States on Sept. 11, 2001. *AFP*

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Today's *What's News* questions:

1. What does PMS stand for?
   a. Prior Machine Study
   b. Pre-Maturity Standard
   c. Pre-Menstrual Syndrome
   d. Post-Maternity Soiree
2. A cube has how many sides?
   a. 4
   b. 10
   c. 12
   d. 6
3. What is the English counterpart of *ampalaya*?
   a. squash
   b. bitter gourd
   c. eggplant
   d. apple
4. Who is the best friend of Ben Affleck?
   a. Matt Damon
   b. Chris Cornell
   c. Trent Reznor
   d. Dave Navarro
5. Who is the internationally renowned Filipino pianist?
   a. Cecil Licad
   b. Beethoven
   c. Mozart
   d. John Lesaca

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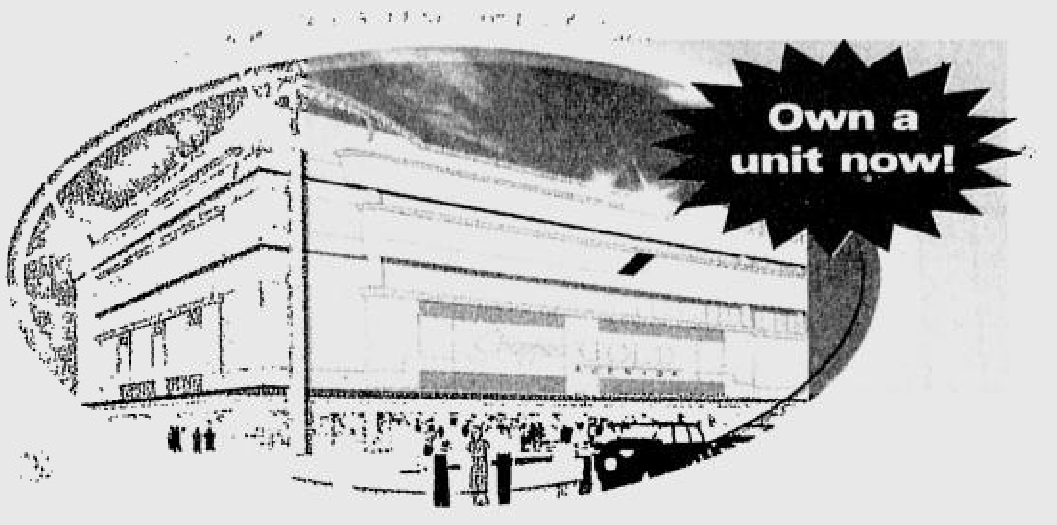

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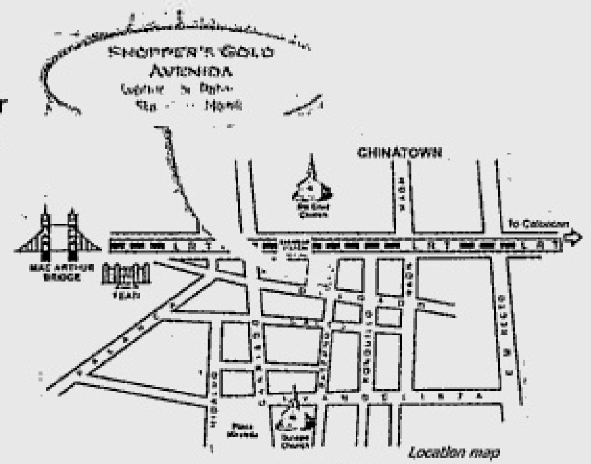

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Pinay raped, jailed, abandoned in UAE

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

DESPITE the perils of working abroad, this Filipina braved the odds to earn a living and help her folks back home. But her quest for a better life led her to jail.

After being abducted and raped by an Emirati posing as a policeman, the 29-year-old Filipina overseas worker is now languishing in jail in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on trumped-up charges.

Worse, her pleas for help have been ignored by Philippine Embassy officials in the emirate.

The Filipina, identified only as "Grace", a native of Kiangan, Ifugao, has been in jail since May 26.

She sought the help of the Migrante Sectoral Party after Philippine Embassy officials left her at the mercy of the UAE courts without legal assistance.

John Monterona, a spokesperson for Migrante, said Grace was snatched and raped by an Emirati, identified as Khalifa Hassan Khalifa, posing as a policeman in the early hours of May 16 in Dubai. Grace was then working for the catering services of an airline.

After the incident, Grace was hospitalized for 10 days due to her injuries and trauma.

Monterona said the case was brought to court. On the advice of Philippine Consul and First Secretary Renato Villa, a lawyer was hired for $2,500 to handle her case.

He said it was the victim's fellow OFWs who raised the money for her legal fees even though the Department of Foreign Affairs has a $180,000-fund to assist Filipinos abroad.

According to Monterona, the lawyer has not appeared in court and not even Villa or any other embassy official has attended the hearings.

Grace was jailed for two offenses—for being under the "influence of liquor" and for "adultery" arising from an alleged affair with a Filipino—and may face deportation, according to Migrante.

Monterona said the charges against Grace were trumped-up and she was made to make statements to the police without the aid of counsel.

The alleged rapist, on the other hand, was released on bail on Sept. 11.

Migrante said the government's abandonment of Grace was similar to earlier cases faced by Filipina migrant workers in the UAE.

"This is not very different from the Philippine government's major blunders in handling the cases of Sarah Balabagan in 1995 and Mary Jane Ramos in 2000," Monterona said.

Migrante yesterday called for the immediate recall and filing of charges against Villa and the investigation of other diplomatic officials in the UAE for "gross negligence and incompetence."

In another development, Israeli police raided a house in a Tel Aviv suburb in search of a Filipina illegally working as a maid.

The raid, broadcast on Israeli television, was part of a government campaign to expel thousands of foreign workers as the country wallows in recession.

Officials said the deportations would ease Israeli unemployment, now at 10.6 percent.

There are close to 300,000 foreigners working in Israel, of whom only about 100,000 have valid work permits. *With a Reuters report*

Want an easy P2M? Don't call 'Paeng'

IF SOMETHING sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Lucky mobile phone users were told they were just one call away from P2 million being given away by Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Gov. Rafael "Paeng" Buenaventura.

A text message said the "anniversary raffle" prize could be claimed by calling Buenaventura on a designated mobile number.

A groggy-sounding man on the other end of the line promised that, in exchange for a name and bank account number, the money would be transferred "within this week."

"That's a hoax," a bank spokesperson said on Monday. "I'm surprised it's still going on."

She said police and the telecommunications regulator were investigating the scam, which has several variations.

One requires callers to provide the numbers of pre-paid mobile phone cards, allowing the criminals to steal the credits.

Under the bank account scenario, the "winners" of the raffle are asked to pay a 10-percent withholding tax before the prize money could be released.

The Central Bank spokesperson said "a sizeable number" of people had been duped, but she could not provide exact figures. *Reuters*

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This year's 30 finalists were selected from 432 candidates from colleges and universities throughout the country.

Among the finalists is INQUIRER reporter Edson Tandoc Jr. of the University of the Philippines.

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From page A1

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Pinay raped, jailed, abandoned in UAE

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

DESPITE the perils of working abroad, this Filipina braved the odds to earn a living and help her folks back home. But her quest for a better life led her to jail.

After being abducted and raped by an Emirati posing as a policeman, the 29-year-old Filipina overseas worker is now languishing in jail in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on trumped-up charges.

Worse, her pleas for help have been ignored by Philippine Embassy officials in the emirate.

The Filipina, identified only as "Grace", a native of Kiangan, Ifugao, has been in jail since May 26.

She sought the help of the Migrante Sectoral Party after Philippine Embassy officials left her at the mercy of the UAE courts without legal assistance.

John Monterona, a spokesperson for Migrante, said Grace was snatched and raped by an Emirati, identified as Khalifa Hassan Khalifa, posing as a policeman in the early hours of May 16 in Dubai. Grace was then working for the catering services of an airline.

After the incident, Grace was hospitalized for 10 days due to her injuries and trauma.

Monterona said the case was brought to court. On the advice of Philippine Consul and First Secretary Renato Villa, a lawyer was hired for $2,500 to handle her case.

He said it was the victim's fellow OFWs who raised the money for her legal fees even though the Department of Foreign Affairs has a $180,000-fund to assist Filipinos abroad.

According to Monterona, the lawyer has not appeared in court and not even Villa or any other embassy official has attended the hearings.

Grace was jailed for two offenses—for being under the "influence of liquor" and for "adultery" arising from an alleged affair with a Filipino—and may face deportation, according to Migrante.

Monterona said the charges against Grace were trumped-up and she was made to make statements to the police without the aid of counsel.

The alleged rapist, on the other hand, was released on bail on Sept. 11.

Migrante said the government's abandonment of Grace was similar to earlier cases faced by Filipina migrant workers in the UAE.

"This is not very different from the Philippine government's major blunders in handling the cases of Sarah Balabagan in 1995 and Mary Jane Ramos in 2000," Monterona said.

Migrante yesterday called for the immediate recall and filing of charges against Villa and the investigation of other diplomatic officials in the UAE for "gross negligence and incompetence."

In another development, Israeli police raided a house in a Tel Aviv suburb in search of a Filipina illegally working as a maid.

The raid, broadcast on Israeli television, was part of a government campaign to expel thousands of foreign workers as the country wallows in recession.

Officials said the deportations would ease Israeli unemployment, now at 10.6 percent.

There are close to 300,000 foreigners working in Israel, of whom only about 100,000 have valid work permits. *With a Reuters report*

Want an easy P2M? Don't call 'Paeng'

IF SOMETHING sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Lucky mobile phone users were told they were just one call away from P2 million being given away by Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Gov. Rafael "Paeng" Buenaventura.

A text message said the "anniversary raffle" prize could be claimed by calling Buenaventura on a designated mobile number.

A groggy-sounding man on the other end of the line promised that, in exchange for a name and bank account number, the money would be transferred "within this week."

"That's a hoax," a bank spokesperson said on Monday. "I'm surprised it's still going on."

She said police and the telecommunications regulator were investigating the scam, which has several variations.

One requires callers to provide the numbers of pre-paid mobile phone cards, allowing the criminals to steal the credits.

Under the bank account scenario, the "winners" of the raffle are asked to pay a 10-percent withholding tax before the prize money could be released.

The Central Bank spokesperson said "a sizeable number" of people had been duped, but she could not provide exact figures. *Reuters*

RP's top students to be picked today

FINAL judging to pick the 2003 Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines will be held today at the RFM Corporate Center Penthouse in Mandaluyong City.

This year's judges are Commission on Higher Education chair Bro. Rolando Dizon, FSC, who also chairs the board of judges, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, former Agriculture Secretary Senen Bacani, Transportation Undersecretary Jose Cortes, who chaired this year's TOSP national screening committee, and investment banker Eleuterio Coronel.

Launched in 1961, the TOSP recognizes academic excellence, exemplary leadership, community involvement and exceptional character in students.

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GMA: Probe politicos' links to bank robberies

From page A1

not glorify rogue leaders masquerading as paragons of reform or good performance," the President said without naming names.

She assured the people that the PNP "is now doing its best to pin down the masterminds of recent crimes to see if there are any politico-underworld linkages at work."

Avoid witch hunting

But the President called for sobriety and warned the PNP against recklessly implicating politicians in bank robberies.

"We have to gather evidence for this and avoid witch hunting," she said.

Her spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said at a briefing that the PNP would not release the name of a suspected politician unless there was an air-tight case against that person.

But Lito Banayo, spokesperson of opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson, last week told reporters of an alleged plan by police to raid houses belonging to Lacson and his supporters to "plant evidence" related to the Aug. 25 robbery at Citibank's local headquarters.

Police criminal investigation director Eduardo Matillano denied Banayo's claim.

Lacson, one of Ms Macapagal's most vocal critics and a possible presidential candidate, has accused her husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, of corruption. His charges prompted a nationally televised Senate investigation.

Sought for comment on the President's directive, PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. appeared irritated, saying the PNP would talk about the alleged linkage only when evidence was available.

"The problem is, any answer to this question will again provide some speculations," he told reporters. "That's why it's better to follow the saying that 'less talk less mistake and no talk no mistake.'"

Even before Rep. Joseph Santiago (NPC Catanduanes) urged police to look into the alleged linkage between politicians and bank robberies, Ebdane said the PNP had already been conducting investigations.

Santiago on Sunday claimed that 26 local and foreign banks had lost at least P63 million to robbers in less than nine months. Nine of the bank heists were allegedly carried out after the failed coup on July 27, raising suspicions that these were meant to destabilize the government.

In her speech, Ms Macapagal said rooting out crimes such as bank robberies was vital in turning the country into a strong republic.

"We can only say that we have achieved a strong republic if people feel safe in their homes and in the streets," she said.

PRESIDENT Macapagal talks with PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane during her visit to the police headquarters at Camp Crame Monday. AFP

Later in the day, the President repeated her statements in a speech at the 105th anniversary of the Malolos Congress at the Barasoain Church in Bulacan.

She said she had already given her orders to pinpoint the masterminds behind the spate of crimes that hit Metro Manila recently.

"It is, however, a sad thing that instead of focusing our time and attention on the bigger problems of poverty, criminality and terrorism, our attention is diverted by the threats of destabilization and too much politicking," the President said.

Manifesto of support

During the flag-raising ceremony in Camp Crame, the police hierarchy gave the President a manifesto of support.

Ms Macapagal thanked the PNP for the support, saying the police should manifest their support for her and loyalty to the flag by doing their job well.

She also congratulated the PNP for coming up with a memorandum of agreement on anti-highway robbery. "This just goes to show that the PNP is sensitive and responsive to the feedback coming from its citizens," she said.

The President, however, did not hide her irritation over the reported robbery of the Classmate KTV, a popular club on Quezon Avenue said to be frequented by rich patrons and some top PNP officials.

"The PNP must not only get to the bottom of this crime but discipline its ranks with regard to nightlife," she said.

Ms Macapagal said police officers frequenting nightspots smack of protection and corruption.

"Police officers must serve as models not only for others in the organization but also for the community they serve," she said.

Her spokesperson said the police officers said to be regular habitués of the night club could be extending protection to its owners.

Told of reports that some Cabinet officials and undersecretaries also go to that bar, Bunye said the President's admonition to the PNP applied to all public officials and employees.

Palace partly to blame

Malacañang may be partly to blame for the PNP's failure to neutralize organized crime.

Records show that the Palace has failed to release close to half a billion pesos appropriated for the PNP's purchase of crime fighting equipment in 2002 and 2003.

According to a budget briefing folio presented to the House of Representatives by Interior Secretary Jose Lina, a total of P389 million was not released to the PNP in 2002. The P389 million was earmarked for the procurement of patrol cars, vehicles and K-9 dogs.

For 2002, the PNP had a capital outlay budget of P468.6 million from which only P79.6 million was released.

In 2003, the Palace did not release P100 million that was allotted for the purchase of 75 patrol vehicles and 2,525 pieces of 9-mm pistols, the standard handgun for police officers.

The P100 million represents the total capital outlay of the PNP for year 2003.

Lina submitted the budget briefing folio before the House appropriations committee that is hearing the PNP's proposed total budget of P35.3 billion for year 2004.

Reached for comment, Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. (Lakas, Camarines Sur) said the tight fiscal situation of the government prevented it from releasing the PNP's budget for crime fighting equipment.

"Until our revenue collections improve, a large segment of our police force will remain car-less, phone-less and has to make do with *'teka-teka'* revolvers," Andaya said. *With a report from Carlito Pablo*

'Nightlife' checks next for gov't officials

From page A1

vard, or enthusiastic plotting against rivals.

Do they often go to expensive night clubs, order expensive drinks and seek expensive female company? These, a PAGC official said, were proofs of corruption as damning as owning mansions, taking frequent trips abroad, and sending children to the most expensive schools.

PAGC Commissioner Teresita Baltazar, tasked to oversee President Macapagal-Arroyo's lifestyle audit campaign, said a look-see into officials' nighttime socials was really on the checklist, but that this part had not been started.

The President recently ordered the police leadership to look into their officials' average evening engagements. Taking the cue, Baltazar said her office would soon apply the instruction to civilian officials.

PAGC Commissioner Cesar Buenaflor sought the public's help in gathering relevant information about ranking civil servants who frequented high-end nightspots. "The President is right in (believing this is) a possible indicator of graft," Buenaflor said.

INQUIRER sources said a party of three or four could easily run up a bill of P50,000 in a premium nightspot. Beer in expensive clubs costs up to P150 per glass, ladies drinks P250 each, brandy at least P1,000 per bottle, and appetizers P500 a plate.

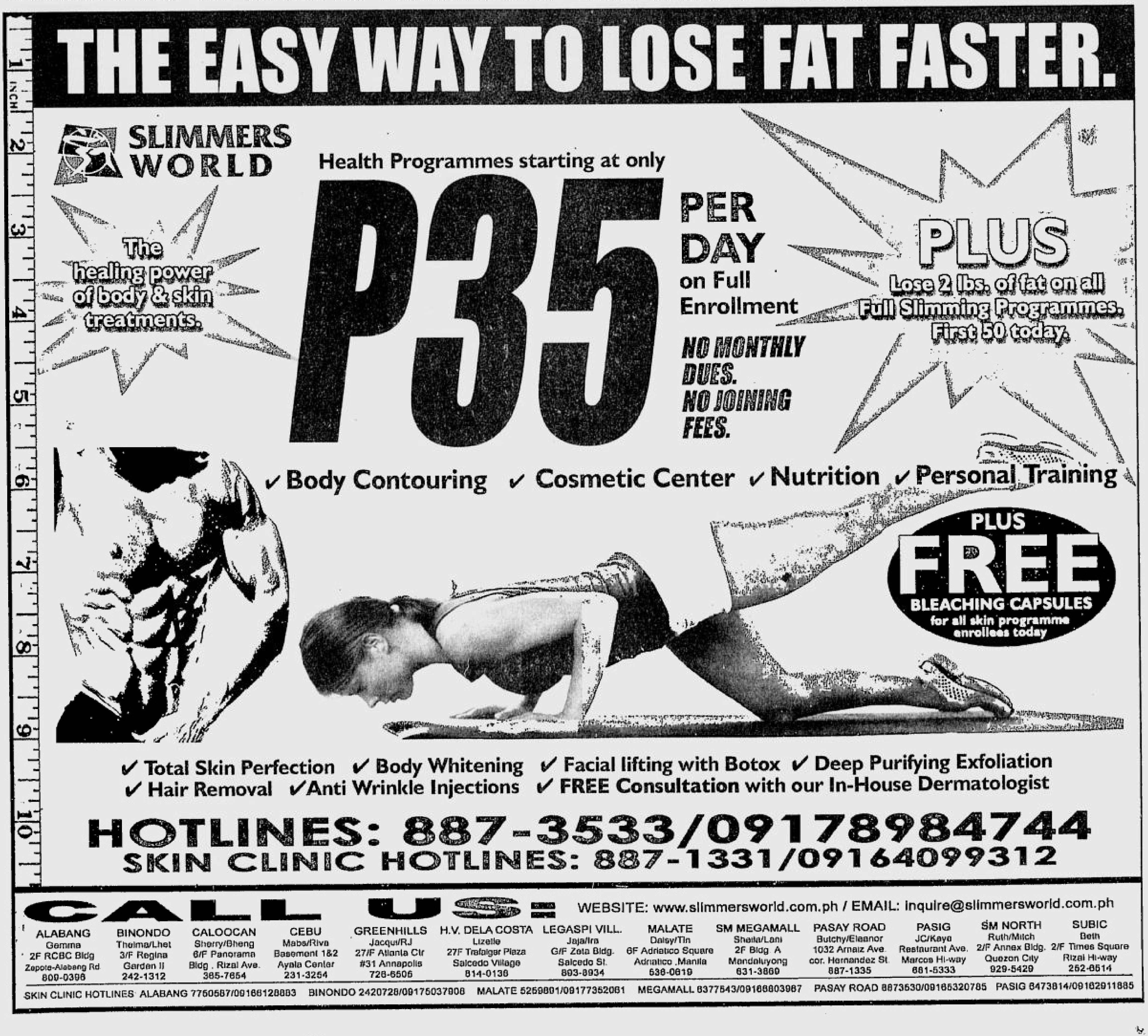
Four customers hiring four GROs (guest relations officers, usually women) pay up to P15,000 for an exclusive room. The "consumable" rate is usually finished in an hour, although it does not cover alcoholic drinks. The GROs are each given a tip of P2,000 to P5,000—and up to P15,000 if one of the guests decides to extend any of the women's services.

Often, the sources said, big spenders also hired a sexy dancer at the fixed rate of P3,000 for two numbers.

Buenaflor admitted that the military and police were not covered by the PAGC's mandate. But he said the commission could get involved in this part of the campaign because it was part of Ms Macapagal's lifestyle check brigade, along with the Ombudsman's office, Malacañang's Transparency Group, the National Bureau of Investigation and the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

As for patronizing expensive restaurants, Buenaflor said this could also become incriminating if officials did it frequently enough, presumably counting daytime trips: "It is a good indication that they are living beyond their means."

And that is whether or not they also require brandy and entertainment with lunch—or breakfast, for that matter.



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Meet on why women rule

"WOMEN as Forces of Social Change" is the subject of a symposium to be conducted by the Ateneo Library of Women's Writings (ALIWW) on Sept. 19, 2 to 4 p.m., at the Audiovisual Room of the Social Science Building on the Loyola Heights campus.

The panel of speakers will be composed of Eugenia Duran Apostol, founder of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and founder and chair of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power; Emily A. Abrera, chair of McCann Erickson Phils.; Dr. Aurora Pavia Asanza, dean of the Paaralang Manghihilom para sa Naghihilom in Tanay, Rizal; Karen Tañada, executive director of the Gaston Z. Ortigas Peace Institute and Monica Feria Miranda, president of Punla sa Tao Foundation.

Symposium sponsors are Filway Marketing Inc. and Avon. For more information, interested parties may call the ALIWW office, tel. 426-6001, loc. 5811, or e-mail aliww@admu.edu.ph.

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AN URGENT APPEAL OF MANOLING SANCHEZ TO PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO TO STOP THE CORRUPTION OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS GOING ON BETWEEN CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, INC. (CAPITOL) AND AYALA LAND, INC. (AYALA) ON THE PROJECT CALLED AYALA HILLSIDE ESTATES

Madam President:

At the onset I would like to categorically state that **this open letter is not an act of destabilization, but the result of exasperation, frustration, desperation and helplessness in the administration of justice.** I am an insignificant nobody in the world of politics. **The lingering effect of the "state of rebellion" in itself gives the atmosphere of uncertainty and I do not like to add more problems.**

I am privy to and concur with the soldiers' allegations of corruption in the other branches of government, specially in the Executive Branch, as I am a personal victim of it.

The case of Ayala Hillside Estates is a multi-billion peso scam. The Diosdado Macapagal highway and the Impsa pales in comparison. Although this may be considered as an Intra-Corporate matter, **the perpetration of this scam is imbued with public interest because every step of the way, the questionable approvals, actions, inactions & participation of several government agencies and officials are glaring.** The immorality, irregularity, illegality and unconscionable aspect of this scam is so difficult to justify. The amount involved is so huge.

To summarize, the multi-billion peso scam is simply like this:

a) There is a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) (being questioned in court by the undersigned Manoling Sanchez) for a joint venture to develop the golf course into a commercial and residential area.

b) The contribution of Capitol is its land property and the contribution of Ayala is the development cost.

c) The Official zonal valuation of the property is Php13,600.00 per sqm. And the market value is about Php20,000.00 - Php25,000.00 per sqm. The development cost of Ayala is said to be Php4,000.00 - Php5,000.00 per sqm.

d) The sharing is 60% - 40% in favor of Ayala. This is simply ridiculous no matter how perfumed is the name of Ayala as a land developer.

e) It is advertised that Ayala is selling the property at Php18,500.00 - Php20,000.00 per sqm.

f) Mathematically computed, after deducting 30% of the land for roads, open spaces and others, Capitol share holders will get a return of Php5,000.00+ per sqm. and Ayala to receive Php8,000.00+ per sqm. **This gives a loss of 62% to Capitol and a profit of 230% to Ayala. This is unbelievable and borders on criminality.**

g) The MOA does not provide any safety net for Capitol stockholders nor any say on the following:

- Capitol has no right on how much to sell
- Capitol has no right on when to sell
- Capitol has no right to whom to sell
- Capitol has no right on how to develop
- Capitol has no right on how much to develop

) Atty. Mat Defensor and Mr. Pablo "Boy" Roman, Jr. of Capitol claim that more than 2/3 of the stockholders approved this MOA and all actions of the Board in the last stockholders meeting. They refused to show the undersigned the proof of such approval. Atty. Defensor won't allow inspection of the so-called proxy and the Stock and Transfer Book. I **refused to believe that his co-stockholders in Capitol are a bunch of stupid nincompoops.**

i) This claim, in the normal course of events, is statistically improbable. It is like winning the grand lotto five consecutive times. The case is now in court. Atty. Mat Defensor has already defied on two occasions the Order of the Court for inspection of Capitol's documents. **Judge Bruselas seems to be having a hard time deciding on a simple Petition to declare Capitol's last stockholders meeting illegally held considering the overwhelming evidences presented, the case remains unresolved. There is much speculation again on what's going on with the judiciary.**

j) Ayala has to explain why they made advances to Capitol in the hundreds of millions one year prior to this MOA.

For the last six (6) years, I have been fighting a lonely battle using every avenue that the legal process affords me. I have religiously followed what is required by law in pursuing a case. Nothing happened. **The judicial system grinds in such a slow way that gives no comfort to the litigants and only result in frustrations and desperation.** This is of common knowledge.

Please observe the following:

1. Administrative Case No. C.A-03-0032-B and Criminal Case No. C.C-03-0044-B for preliminary investigation which has been docketed by the Ombudsman's Office last February 11, 2003 against SEC Chairperson Lilia Bautista, SEC Commissioner Joselia Poblador, and SEC Commissioner Fe Gloria remains unresolved.

2. Atty. Mat Defensor (father of Secretary Mike Defensor) and Ayala applied to the Q.C. Council and Mayor Belmonte for a development permit of a subdivision called Ayala Hillside Estates, while **a case is pending before the Regional Trial Court of Q.C., dated July 1, 2002 under Judge Apolinario Bruselas, Jr. The petition, a simple case based on the evidence presented, now for more than one (1) year remains unresolved. The Quezon City Council, and Mayor Belmonte approved the development permit without an environmental clearance. The clearance came only after the approval. How could this happen?**

3. Atty. Mat Defensor applied for a License to Sell from the HLURB, an attached agency headed by his son Secretary Mike Defensor, even knowing that a case questioning the validity of the project is pending in Court. I received very confidential information that the officials of HLURB are under tremendous moral pressure to issue a License to Sell which Atty. Mat Defensor was able to get. This resulted in a case docketed as OMB-C-C-03-0302-E. The complaint was filed February 11, 2003. **This case remains unresolved.** A petition for review of the Board of HLURB was made on April 16, 2003 by Atty. Redemberto R. Villanueva, Counsel for the undersigned. This remains unresolved.

4. A request for annotation of lis pendens was made to the Acting Register of Deeds of Quezon City, Atty. Jojo Quilala and Judge Benedicto Ulep as Administrator of the Land Registration Authority. Inspite of the Supreme Court decision, under G.R. No. 136283, February 29, 2000, the request remains unresolved. Common sense dictates that there must be a hidden scenario. The decision of the Supreme Court on the case of Viewmaster Construction Corporation, petitioner, versus Hon. Reynaldo Y. Maulit in his official capacity as of the Land Registration Authority, is the latest jurisprudence on lis pendens. The decision is instructive and leaves no doubt that the duty of Atty. Quilala becomes ministerial. Is it true that the tandem of Atty. Quilala and Judge Ulep (Sigma Rhoans) is very close to a certain Gentleman and a "Law Firm"? Some are suspecting that part of the proceeds of this multibillion land scam, if pushed through, would benefit a certain political party and its officials.

Upon consultation with my counsel, Atty. Redemberto R. Villanueva, of RRV Legal Consultancy Firm, we have decided to implead Ayala and its officials very soon, in a new case related to this anomaly. Ayala has a lot of explaining to do to its stockholders. **I promise the stockholders of Capitol Hills that several criminal cases will be filed against several officials of four (4) registered corporations (Ayala, Capitol, Pacific Asia Capital Corp., Pacific Asia Land Corp., the last two entities headed by Mr. Mark Dayrit)** once my accountants and auditors are allowed to open the Books of Accounts of Capitol and the supposed proxies submitted in the last stockholders meeting.

I suggest that you call for BIR Commissioner Guillermo L. Parayno, Jr. regarding the contents of my confidential letter to him dated July 25, 2003.

Madam President, the closeness to the First Family to some of the Ayalas, Secretary Mike Defensor and Mayor Feliciano Belmonte, Atty. Pancho Villaraza, Executive Secretary Romulo, Vicky Garchitorena, Secretary Datumanong and Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo is widely perceived.

The very strange behavior of Atty. Jojo Quilala and LRA Administrator Judge Benedicto Ulep on the issue of lis pendens is suspectedly linked to the First Gentleman and Secretary Datumanong. **The Ayalas are indeed be very lucky in this administration. As a taxpayer, I would like Secretary Mike Defensor to provide me with the application, full compliance and other related documents of the housing project for the Military in Tanza, Cavite called Riego de Dios. Was the award of the project to an Ayala subsidiary (Laguna Properties) by bidding or by negotiation? I have the right, as a taxpayer, to verify the transparency of this transaction. A congressional investigation, in aid of legislation, might be in order. Tongues are wagging and it leaves a very bad taste in the mouth.**

There are also insinuations that the SEC Commissioners will never be given a preventive suspension, because Your Excellency was once upon a time an Asst. Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry in charge of garments and was under Lilia Bautista as Undersecretary. **Some sources say that First Gentleman Miguel Arroyo owes a debt of gratitude to these SEC Commissioners, being responsible for helping Alicia Morales Arroyo, the sister-in-law of Mr. Mike Arroyo, to be the Chairman of the Philippine Stock Exchange.**

Lastly, to you **Madam President and Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo, please summon in confidence the recently appointed Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon, Atty. Vic Fernandez. Ask him to tell the truth of what he really knows about this case for the last five (5) years.** Since his appointment, he has been useless to me. **He would not help me in any way, even a simple information as to the status of the different cases pending in the Ombudsman's Office. His reasons are that it might give a wrong signal to the Ombudsman's Office and he will never take the risk of tainting the name of his late father, Senator Estanislao Fernandez. I respect him for that. So far, I have known him to be an honorable man.**

I trust that Your Excellency will not begrudge me for citing these disturbing insinuations, being, as I am, helpless and vulnerable for fear that **perhaps without your knowledge, some quarters are using their association with you to achieve their evil ends. I appeal to you, Madam President, to show in clear and unequivocal terms, that you will not allow Your Office, Your person, Your family nor friendships and associations with certain people, no matter how close, to stand in the way of justice.**

Madam President, **I am also appealing to the Tri-Media and the public to take a critical attitude on graft and corruption for a strong republic and better governance. Perhaps, the Tri-Media and the bar of public opinion could be my "Court of Last Resort".**

Very truly yours,

MANOLING SANCHEZ

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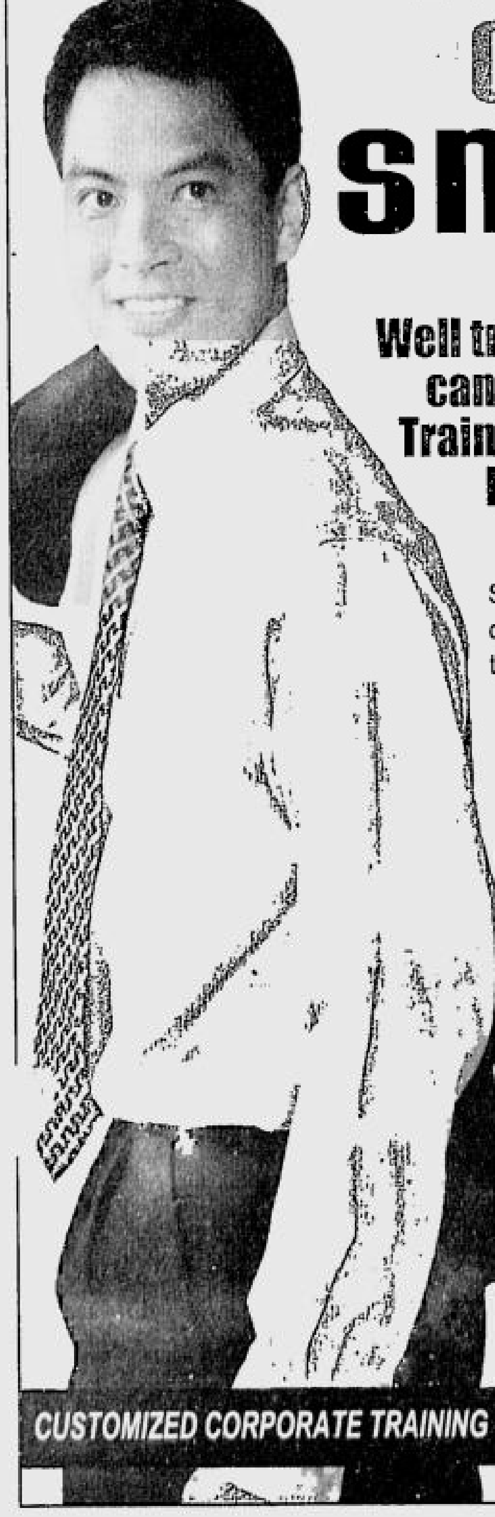

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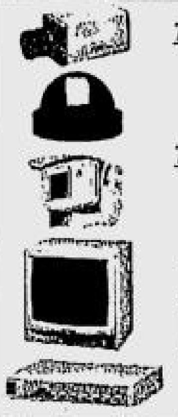

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Army seizes power in Guinea-Bissau

BISSAU—Soldiers ousted the president of the tiny coup-prone West African nation Guinea-Bissau on Sunday, accusing him of violating the constitution of the impoverished former Portuguese colony.

Army chief of staff Gen. Verissimo Correia Seabra declared himself interim president after the apparently bloodless dawn putsch, the latest in a series of uprisings to hit President Kumba Yalla's administration.

Correia Seabra said he expected international organizations to recognize that Yalla's government had no legality.

"We have absolutely no fear about possible international pressure to reinstate the previous government," he said in an interview with Portuguese state radio RDP.

Guinea-Bissau, about the size of Taiwan, is one of the world's poorest nations with a population of some 1.3 million, scraping by on an average $170 a year each. It has been gripped by an economic crisis since a 1998-1999 army revolt.

By evening, streets in the capital Bissau were deserted as a dusk-to-dawn curfew took effect. Troops with automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenade launchers patrolled the city.

The army set up a military committee to restore democracy but has not set a date for elections. A meeting between coup leaders and the government was rescheduled for Monday.

Yalla, who often sports a red woollen hat, was at the army headquarters with Prime Minister Mario Pires late on Sunday, military officials said. Correia Seabra said Yalla could go into exile or stay.

Mozambique's President Joaquim Chissano, who is chairman of the African Union and visited Guinea-Bissau earlier this year, condemned the coup but also criticised Yalla for doing little to end economic insecurity and promote democracy. *Reuters*

CHINESE BEAUTIES REUTERS

Xiao Qin (third from left) from Hunan province won the New Silk Road Modeling Contest in Sanya on China's Hainan Island Sept. 14. Yao Yao (third from right) from Guangzhou and Gu Yu (second from left) won the second place, Zhang Xiaowen (right) from Beijing, Luo Jun (second from right) from Chongqing and Wu Yuzhen (left) from Taiwan won the third place. A total of 51 contestants from China and Taiwan took part in the final competition.

DESPITE LINDH SLAY

Swedish voters say 'No' to euro

STOCKHOLM—Swedish voters delivered a decisive "No" to the EU's single currency on Sunday, defying expectations of a late surge of sympathy votes for the pro-euro government after the murder of Foreign Minister Anna Lindh.

The "No" side won 56 percent of votes and the "Yes" side 42 percent—a stinging defeat for Prime Minister Goran Persson and euro backers in the main political parties and big business.

"In the long term we will have worse opportunities than we would otherwise have had," Social Democrat leader Persson said after the referendum which had a high turnout 81 percent.

Echoing Persson's warnings Sweden would lose influence in the European Union by rejecting the world's second most-traded currency, European Commission chief Romano Prodi told Swedish television the country would "certainly" lose some clout.

Finland said Sweden's "No" was a warning to the 12 nations belonging to the euro to get their house in order, especially those with big budget deficits, like France and Germany.

Ahead in polls since April, the "No" side warned the euro would raise prices and cut funds for the cradle-to-grave welfare system—a big issue in remote areas and for women voters.

"The people have put their foot down and made it clear that democracy comes from below, not from above," said Ulla Hoffman, leader of the Left Party which fought a grass-roots campaign against the euro with the Greens and government dissidents.

The wave of sympathy votes for the "Yes" side in which Lindh had been a fervent campaigner either did not materialize or was not big enough to upset the long-forecast result.

Her murder by a lone knifeman prompted bitter memories of the unsolved assassination of Prime Minister Olof Palme in 1986.

Lindh, 46, had been tipped as a future prime minister.

"She was a really good human being, but her death was no reason to change my mind. I think most people had really decided a month or more ago," said 24-year-old student Philip. "I just think in the longer run the euro would make the economy worse."

Few celebrated in Stockholm where 50,000 people rallied on Friday in tribute to Lindh, in the biggest demonstration here since the Vietnam war. Red roses, poems and children's drawings piled up at the store where she was stabbed.

In sharp contrast to the overwhelming "Yes" to EU membership in a referendum in Estonia on Sunday, Sweden's decision was a setback for the EU's most ambitious economic project, already rejected by Danish voters in 2000.

The EU's third euro outsider, Britain, has yet to put membership to a vote. EU Economic Affairs Commissioner Pedro Solves said Sweden's decision could affect Britain and Denmark. *Reuters*

Ex-Soviet Estonia votes to join EU

TALLINN—The Baltic state of Estonia voted to join the European Union on Sunday, as its leaders hailed its return to Europe 12 years after it regained independence from the Soviet Union.

"We have achieved what we have been struggling to get over the past twelve years," President Arnold Ruutel told reporters after the electoral commission announced that 67 percent of Estonia's voters had voted in favor of joining the bloc, with 33 voting against.

In a joint statement, the president, parliament speaker and prime minister said the people of the country of 1.4 million people "displayed their firm commitment to the common values of Europe."

"Acceding to the EU and Nato next year, the people of Estonia will be ready to bear the responsibility for the future of Europe together with other European states," the statement said.

A total of 63 percent of the electorate of 865,000 took part in the poll that approved Estonia's plans to join the EU on May 1, 2004.

The Estonian referendum was the penultimate in a series of polls in the EU's 10 future member states, with its Baltic neighbor Latvia set to hold the last of the series next Saturday.

Estonia follows Malta, Slovenia, Hungary, Lithuania, Slovakia, Poland and the Czech Republic in deciding to join the EU, while Cyprus will not hold a referendum on joining.

Former president Lennart Meri rallied to welcome the result.

"We're back to Europe, and in good health," Meri said in what he called a "notice to Europe."

The strong level of support for EU membership indicated that the traditionally Eurosceptic country had set aside its reservations about losing the independence it regained 13 years ago from Moscow. *AFP*

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Hurricane heads toward US East Coast

MIAMI—Powerful Hurricane Isabel steamed across the Atlantic Ocean toward the United States on Sunday and forecasters said it would almost certainly hit the Eastern Seaboard late this week.

"We feel pretty confident that someone will (get hit)," said Eric Blake, a specialist at the National Hurricane Center in Miami. "We're forecasting a major hurricane for the United States East Coast."

Forecasters said the storm could strike the US Atlantic Coast anywhere from South Carolina to Maine by Friday, though the most likely track would bring it barreling up the North Carolina, Virginia and Maryland shorelines.

"Even if the center doesn't come near your specific location, the storm is very large and most of the East Coast is probably going to feel this in some way, especially in the mid-Atlantic states," Blake said.

Isabel had sustained winds of 250 kph, making it a strong Category 4 storm on the five-step Saffir-Simpson scale of hurricane intensity. Such storms can destroy coastal homes, rip off roofs, batter the shoreline with a 4.5-meter storm surge and cause heavy inland flooding. *Reuters*

AGAINST GUNS AP

Thousands of people march near the beach in Rio de Janeiro Sept. 14. Firefighters estimated some 50,000 protesters braved the driving rain to parade along Copacabana beach, waving banners reading "Brazil Without Guns" and calling on the government to pass a stringent gun control law pending in Congress.

Cambodia frees anti-Thai rioters

PHNOM PENH—A Cambodian court on Monday freed 56 of the 58 people charged over violent anti-Thailand riots in January which badly damaged relations between the neighbors.

The lenient decision against the group, mostly young students accused of looting a Phnom Penh hotel during the unrest, came after Cambodia's revered King Norodom Sihanouk expressed doubt over their involvement.

The Jan. 29 riots, in which mobs torched the Thai Embassy, Thai businesses and the Royal Phnom Penh Hotel, were sparked by an erroneous report that Thai actress Suwanan Kongying claimed Cambodia's famed Angkor Wat temples belonged to Thailand.

If found guilty, the defendants, who were labeled "extremists" by the government of Prime Minister Hun Sen, could have been sentenced to between five and 15 years in prison for their part in the rampage.

Two of the accused, Ken Sara and Thorn Veasna, were found guilty of charges including inciting racial hatred and organizing an illegal demonstration, but will go free within weeks as their sentences include time already served.

Fifty-four were cleared of charges of banditry, taking part in an illegal demonstration and being involved in a violent protest, and instead found guilty of lesser charges of theft or attempted theft.

The Phnom Penh Municipal Court cleared the remaining two defendants of all charges against them.

"All of them will be freed except Ken Sara and Thorn Veasna who will stay in jail," said Presiding Judge Tan Sinarong. *AFP*

US objects to Israel's kill-Arafat option

JERUSALEM—Israel's vice premier said on Sunday killing Palestinian President Yasser Arafat was an option in its threat to "remove" him and the United States rejected the idea, warning it would trigger "rage throughout the Arab world."

Also alarmed at Israel's threat was the chief Palestinian peace negotiator, Saeb Erekat, who expressed the fear that if Israel kills Arafat, Palestinian militias could unleash their wrath against moderate leaders such as himself.

In a fresh outbreak of violence, Israeli soldiers shot and killed an 11-year-old Palestinian boy on Sunday evening after he entered the area of an airport north of Jerusalem being used as an army base, a doctor said.

The army apologized for the shooting.

Ehud Olmert, a mainstream member of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's cabinet, told Israel Radio on Sunday regarding Arafat that "killing (him) is definitely one of the options." "We are trying to eliminate all the heads of terror, and Arafat is one of the heads of terror," said Olmert, who elaborated on a decision taken on Thursday by Israel's security cabinet to "remove" Arafat, calling him an obstacle to peace.

Israel's threat followed a recent surge in Israeli-Palestinian violence, including back-to-back suicide bombings in Israel that killed 15 people on Tuesday.

Israel, backed by the United States, blames the 74-year-old Arafat, a former guerrilla leader, for fomenting much of the violence of a nearly three-year Palestinian uprising for statehood in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Arafat denies the charge for which the Israeli military has kept him largely confined to his battered headquarters in the West Bank city of Ramallah for 21 months.

The cabinet did not say when or how its threat against Arafat would be carried out, but the decision has brought an international outcry, and an outpouring of support for Arafat.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians demonstrated on his behalf throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip on Saturday, and on Sunday the protests spread through the Muslim world to nations as far away as Indonesia.

Secretary of State Colin Powell rejected Olmert's remarks.

He said that if Arafat was either exiled or killed, "I think you can anticipate that there would be rage throughout the Arab world, the Muslim world and in many other parts of the world."

"The United States does not support either the elimination of him or the exile of Mr Arafat ... the Israeli government knows that," Powell said.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, on an official visit to France, said in an interview with France 3 television that it would be a mistake for Israel to attack Arafat.

"To attack Arafat ... is also to attack a spiritual father. He should be negotiated with in a wise manner.

"But I also say to the Palestinians: do not erect obstacles to give the Israelis the pretext to attack you," Mubarak said.

Erekat told Army Radio that if Israel killed Arafat, Palestinian militias would take over cities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip administered by the Palestinian Authority.

"Probably the first thing they will do is come to my house and shoot me...and kill all Palestinian moderates," Erekat said.

Reuters

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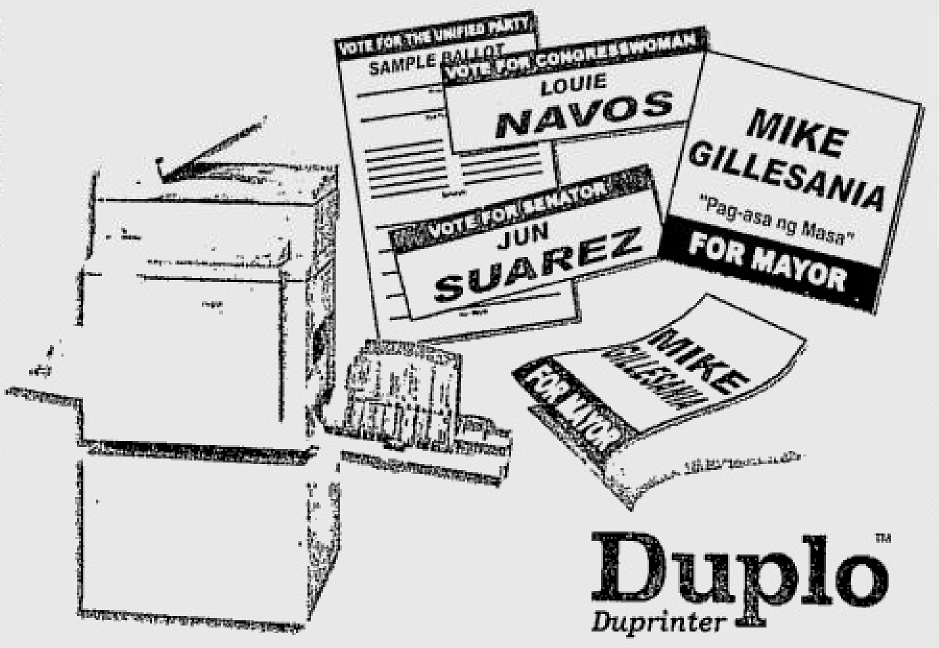

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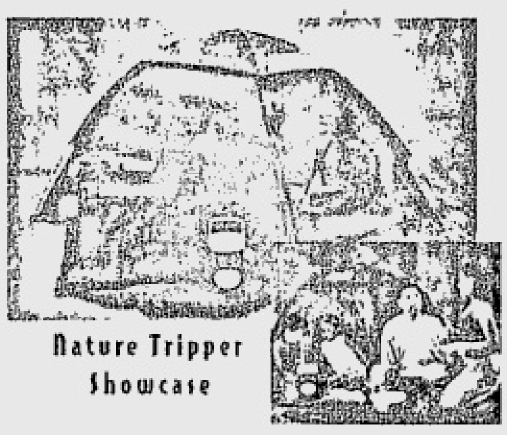

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Frequent Traveller Showcase

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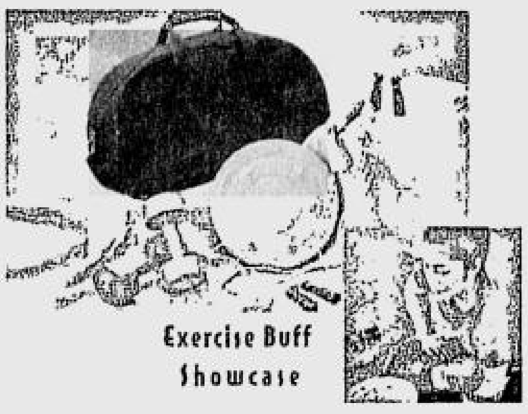

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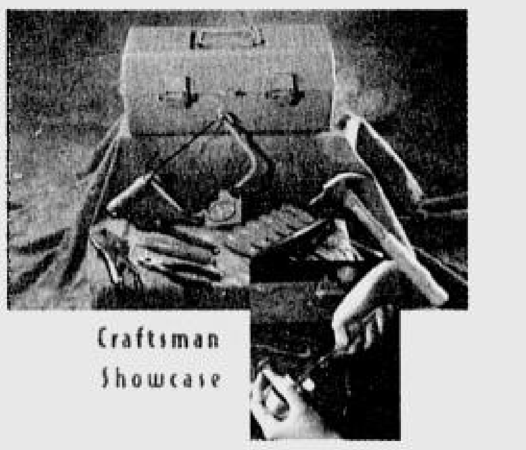

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Veggie importers renege on deal

BAGUIO CITY—Commercial importers have backed down from a commitment to buy vegetables being served at five-star hotels and restaurants from local farmers, a Department of Agriculture official here said on Monday.

"They originally agreed to buy Benguet vegetables, but suddenly they are saying. that their foreign clients are looking for their own brand of vegetables, not local products. This is putting (Agriculture Secretary Luis) Lorenzo Jr. in a bind," said Faustino Maslan, DA Cordillera director.

Last week, Benguet Gov. Raul Molintas wrote President Macapagal-Arroyo complaining that certain government agencies have allowed the importation of European vegetables, which have lower tariffs.

Ms Macapagal pushed the new tariff values for vegetables as a response to a series of protest marches organized by Benguet and Mt. Province farmers in 2001 and 2002.

The farmers were protesting the unabated smuggling and importation of vegetables, which had displaced P1.2 million worth of products from their Metro Manila markets.

Molintas told the INQUIRER on Saturday that commercial importers met with Benguet farmers after the protests to transact an alternative daily shipment of salad vegetables.

"Because of that agreement, we were certain vegetable importation would be vastly reduced," he said.

"But recently, the importers had been telling (the DA) that their clients could not be forced to consume the local products," Maslan said.

Molintas attached to his complaint samples of recent import clearances issued by Lorenzo and Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

Benguet farmers traced these clearances to the office of Blo Umpar Adiong, director of the Bureau of Plant Industry, and to the Bureau of Customs.

Adiong said in a letter to the INQUIRER that farmers were targeting the wrong culprit.

"The BPI is being blamed for the alleged low income highland growers get from their vegetables. One simple reason is highland vegetable growers cannot raise the vegetables' high-end markets (hotels, restaurants, airlines and big supermarkets) need. Thus the importation," Adiong said.

"And this is even as quality vegetables can be supplied by Cagayan de Oro and Bukidnon as well as (by) Cavite farmers. High end markets need quality farm produce, which the importer can," he said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

'Color coding' launched in bid to end highway robs

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Battling the "alarming" spate of highway robberies where goods worth more than P142 million were stolen last year, the Philippine National Police yesterday launched a color coding scheme for cargo trucks plying the country's eight regions.

The PNP assigned blue to Ilocos; green to Cagayan Valley; red to Central Luzon; orange to Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon); pink to Mimaropa (Occidental and Oriental Mindoro, Marinduque, Roblon and Palawan); violet to Bicol; yellow to Cordillera; and white to Metro Manila.

The colored boards will be inserted into a locked frame placed at the right portion of the front bumper and middle portion of the passenger door of the truck.

The same colored boards indicate the origin, route and destination of the vehicle. The names of the driver and a helper will be included in the frames.

Through the color codes, trucks plying routes outside of their designated destination could easily be tracked down by law enforcers, Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, Central Luzon police director, said.

The color coding scheme was to be immediately implemented. The campaign is aimed at ending highway robberies.

A total of 115 robberies were reported last year, most of these in Central Luzon.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, in brief ceremonies held in Camp Crame, witnessed the signing of a memorandum of agreement for the "no nonsense" drive in Central, Northern and Southern Luzon and Metro Manila. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Naga mayor links aliens to drug trade

NAGA CITY—Mayor Jesse Robredo has linked the illegal drug trade to the entry of illegal aliens into the city after a drug enforcement unit confiscated from an illegal alien half a kilo of high-grade shabu (methamphetamine hydrocloride) on Sept. 9 in San Ramon, Lagonoy, Camarines Sur.

Robredo called on the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation anew to monitor the activities of aliens suspected of staying in the province illegally after the BID rounded up 14 Taiwanese nationals last August.

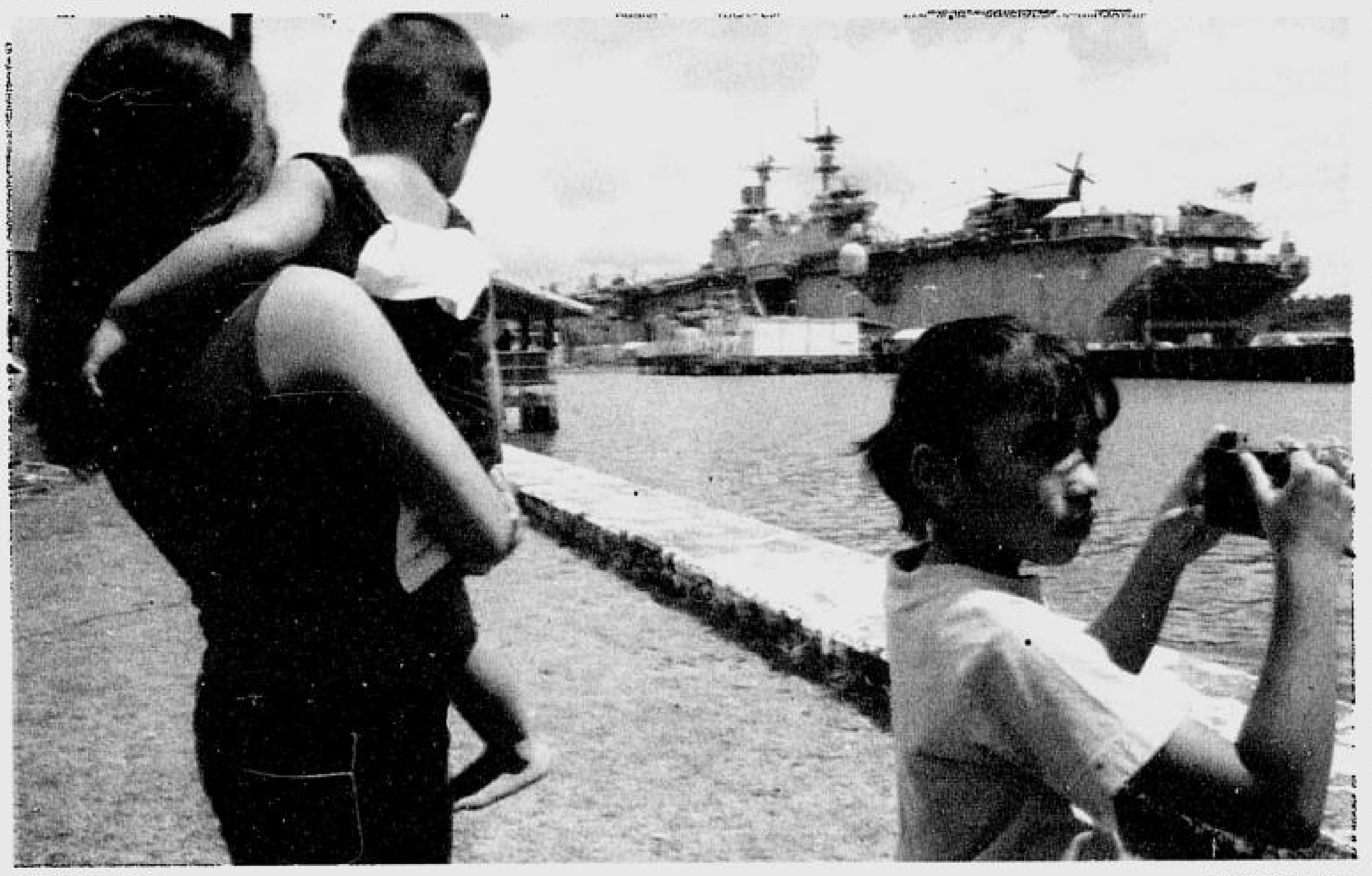
He said the undocumented aliens who have been staying in the province for several years now could be contacts of the drug ring that operates in the province.

Among the suspected alien nationals who enter the city illegally include Chinese, Koreans, Indians and Vietnamese.

The City Drug Enforcement Unit (CDEU), which Robredo organized, arrested last week an undocumented alien identified only as a certain Lito Lim Tie, Manuel Tie and a "Cartoon" after local enforcers confiscated some P3.6-million worth of shabu in a house in Barangay San Ramon.

The CDEU reported that Tie had been elusive and had stayed in the province for the last seven years with his live-in partner identified as Gina Florece.

Florece was not around when authorities arrested Tie in her house. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



DENNIS SABANGAN/EPA

HELLO JOE

Reminiscent of scenes repeated many times in the past when the US government hosted permanent military bases in Subic, a woman and her children view the arrival of a US war ship in Subic Bay for exercises with Filipino troops.

Hybrid rice seeds fail to attract farmers, say agriculturists

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—Agriculture officials here are having a hard time selling hybrid rice to farmers.

The hybrid rice varieties are the Mestizo of the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), Bigante of Bayer, Magilas of Monsanto and SL-8 or Doña Maria of SL-Agritech.

These varieties have potential yields of 12 tons per hectare during dry season compared to only four tons from local rice varieties, according to the Department of Agriculture.

The government launched the national hybrid rice program under the DA's Ginintuang Masaganang Ani (GMA).

Jose Almendares, Pangasinan agriculturist, said it was difficult to convince farmers to adopt hybrid rice technology.

"There is resistance to the new technology especially because of the high cost of hybrid seeds and new methods of seeding," Almendares said.

The hybrid seeds are sold for P1,200 per bag.

Gov. Victor Agbayani will sign a memorandum of agreement with the DA, National Irrigation Administration, PhilRice, Bureau of Plant and Industry, private seed producers and other government agencies to implement hybrid rice technology in Pangasinan.

Last week, Agbayani met with mayors and municipal agriculturists of 10 Pangasinan towns to get their commitment on the hybrid rice project.

Last year, the province targeted 2,000 hectares of riceland for the program, but only 1,000 hectares were actually covered. This year, 7,000 hectares are targeted.

'No permanent enemies' among Negros politicians

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—In politics, there are no permanent enemies.

Negros Oriental politicians seem to be taking this adage to heart because erstwhile enemies now appear to be the best of friends.

Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos, who visited the province last week, described politics in Negros Oriental as "different."

"We usually chide your congressmen that we don't know them anymore because one moment they're enemies and the next moment, they're friends," Marcos said.

"It's like show biz," she said in jest.

Marcos recalled that in the previous Congress, Negros Oriental Representatives Emilio Macias II of the second district and Rep. Jacinto Paras of the first district nearly figured in a fistfight.

But now, she said Macias was a guest in Paras' 50th birthday celebration in Guihulngan town, about 116 kilometers north of Dumaguete.

Also at the party were Marcos, business tycoon Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, former Ambassador Ernesto Maceda, Sen. Loren Legarda and other local officials on Negros Island.

"I guess that's because the politicians in Ilocos Norte don't talk to each other," Macias joked.

Macias explained that politics in Negros Oriental is fought verbally.

"We don't throw anything physical. We were already on a ceasefire mode with Congressmen Paras and Herminio Teves (of the third district) before the possibility of Danding Cojuangco's candidacy for president came up," he said.

Both Paras and Macias are urging Cojuangco to run for president in 2004.

Marcos said the country's politicians have a lot to learn from Negros Oriental politicians.

"The ability to get together and negotiate among the Negros Oriental politicians is an example that we should emulate nationally. Extremely destructive behavior in national politics is ruining not only our economy but wreaking havoc on our security and stability," she said.

US-based Muslim scholars condemn terror

COTABATO CITY—A month before the visit of US President George W. Bush in Manila, two Washington-based Muslim scholars from the Middle East were here over the weekend urging Muslim Filipinos to unite in confronting terrorism.

The Philippine Council for Islam and Democracy (PCID) organized the speaking tour of Radwan Masmoudi and Louay Safi, who hail from Tunisia and Syria, according to its organizer Amina Rasul.

Masmoudi and Safi said Muslim terrorists have downgraded Islam and there was a need to restore its good name.

"It is ironic that some of us espouse violence and continue to profess Islam which actually means peace," Masmoudi told students and faculty members of Notre Dame University.

He said terrorism or the killing of innocent civilians and destruction of property are strictly *haram* (forbidden) in Islam.

Quoting few Quranic verses in his attempt to drive home a point, Masmoudi, president of the Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy, said the teachings of prophets bordered on love and mercy to all, regardless of tribe and religious beliefs.

He said the failure of the majority of the estimated 1.4 billion Muslims in the world to prosper is because of disunity, lack of education and dictatorial regimes.

Masmoudi said before the Sept. 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Center in New York, which had been linked to Osama bin Laden's terror network al-Qaida, the more than 7 million Muslims in the US were free and enjoying the nation's democratic system.

The incident forced the US government to impose restrictions on immigrants and visitors, especially Muslims.

"Our mission as peace-loving Muslims should be to unite and correct misconception," Safi told another gathering composed of civic leaders, non-government organization representatives and local officials led by city Mayor Muslimin Sema.

"We should stop blaming our leaders, and instead work peacefully to attain political and social reforms," said Safi, research director of the US-based International Institute of Islamic Thought.

Islam has been maligned because of the misdeeds of some of the faithful, he said, adding that, "We make Islam good or bad depending on our behavior."

"Islam is helping others in need; providing care, compassion and genuine concern even if they are non-Muslims," Safi said.

Both Safi and Masmoudi lauded the American-type of democracy, which they said "is good but not perfect."

They asked other Islamic nations to try adopting the US form of government that made it a powerful and prosperous nation of over 300 million inhabitants.

Asked if the series of forums were aimed at "Islamizing democracy or democratizing Islam," the two scholars said they were into efforts at finding out "a common ground" based on a Koran verse that says, "Human affairs should be reduced to the process of consultations." *Charlie Sefiase and Nash Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

200 coco farmers join group to continue war over bank ownership

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Almost 200 coconut farmers formed the Negros Occidental Coconut Farmers/UCPB Stockholders Association to enable them to join the legal battle to press their ownership of the United Coconut Planters Bank.

"It is time to fight . . . For 17 years, we have been denied our rights," said businessman Cipriano Antonio who was chosen as the association's interim chair in a meeting here held last Saturday.

The Saturday meeting was the first mobilization of coconut farmers and UCPB stockholders in the country since the Sandiganbayan ruled that the funds used to buy UCPB were public, said lawyer Eduardo Escueta, former Philippine Coconut Authority administrator.

"I hope other provinces will follow," he added, saying that the recent ruling of the Sandiganbayan would take away "the farmers' ownership of UCPB."

Those who attended the meeting were Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Maranon, Party-list Rep. Emerito Calderon and Negros Occidental Rep. Genaro Alvarez.

Maranon was former president of the Philippine Coconut Producers Federation-Negros Occidental. He and his family own UCPB shares.

Alvarez said he came to the meeting as a UCPB shareholder.

The Sandiganbayan earlier declared the coco levy fund as money belonging to the public. The levy was collected from coconut farmers from 1973 to 1983.

The UCPB was one of the investment areas in which the P2.6 billion in coco levy collections was made in the 1970s.

The farmers' and producers' shares represent 64 percent of UCPB, which is part of the 95 percent of the bank that the Sandiganbayan recently declared to be "conclusively owned by the Republic."

About 14,000 Negrenses are among the 1.4 million coconut farmers and producers from all over the country who registered their cocofund receipts with the Philippine Coconut Authority between 1975-1980.

During an open forum, Shirley Jane Catchete-Bernadas said she came to fight for justice for her grandfather, Maximo Catchete of Cauayan town, Negros Occidental.

She said she saw her grandfather toil to produce copra and how he had pinned his hopes on these shares to give them a better future.

Funds for Tacloban City airport used for boats

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez Sr. is appealing to lawmakers in Eastern Visayas to ask President Macapagal to restore the funds intended to rehabilitate and expand the Daniel Z. Romualdez (DZR) Airport.

He said he was disappointed when he learned that the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) had diverted the funds intended for the expansion of the airport, which was named after his uncle.

Romualdez said he hoped that all congressmen in Eastern Visayas as well as Leyte Gov. Remedios Petilla, Regional Development Council chair, would lobby for President Macapagal to restore the funds.

Important

"It (airport expansion project) has been delayed already. We need to start and finish the expansion of the airport. It will play a very important role for the economic development not only of this city but the entire region as it well serve as a gateway for investors as well as the tourists who want to invest and come here in our region," he said.

Dalisay Muertigue, Air Transportation Office chief in Eastern Visayas, said the DBM diverted the P601 million budget for the airport to pay for patrol boats purchased by the government from the Australian government.

The payment was made during the state visit of Australian Prime Minister John Howards in the country in July, she said.

Diversion

Muertigue said she learned about the diversion of the funds two weeks ago when a top official of the DBM central office came to see her. She did not identify the official.

Of the amount, P301 million was intended for the DZR Airport's expansion project. The P300 million was set aside for the Bacolod City airport expansion.

The P601 million was the Philippines' counterpart fund for the P1.3 billion loan from the Japanese Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

Promise

"They (DBM) promised to us that they will return the money once the government finds the funds. But the question is when? Everybody knows that our government is hard-up," Muertigue said.

"This is frustrating. This will further . . . delay . . . the expansion of the DZR Airport," she said.

PHOTO FROM QPL

IN TOUCH WITH DUMAGATS
Members of the Dumagat tribe receive food packs from an unidentified staffer of the Quezon Power (Philippines) Ltd. Co., which operates a power plant near the Dumagats' community in Mauban, Quezon.

ROUNDUP

Soldier murdered

COTABATO CITY—An Army soldier was killed in what police said was another murder case. Pfc. Datucan Salik of Barangay Pagangan in Aleosan, North Cotabato was shot dead along Corcuera Street at the heart of the city early Saturday morning. Insp. Hadji Umbrah Masukat, who was leading the investigation, quoted witnesses as saying the victim had just alighted from a ship from Pagadian City when waylaid by two motorcycle riding men. He said the suspects shot Salik several times. The soldier died on the spot.

Nash Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau

400 drug users yield

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—At least 400 suspected drug pushers and users surrendered to police late Saturday afternoon and vowed to help in the government's anti-drugs campaign. The surrender came in the wake of a stern warning issued by the city government that those found involved in the illicit drugs trade would be pursued and punished. Senior Supt. Jorge Aquisap, city police chief, said the surrender brought to 600 the total number of drug suspects who pledged to reform since the start of the year. Mayor Pedro Acharon said the city government would come up with a livelihood project to help the suspects reform. He said that without providing them alternative livelihood, those who surrendered would always be lured to return to the drug trade in the process of finding a living.

Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Bomb chemicals seized

CASTILLEJOS, Zambales—Police confiscated 25 sacks of ammonium nitrate, a main ingredient in the manufacture of explosives, in a checkpoint in Barangay Del Pilar on Saturday. The chemicals were loaded in a Toyota Revo said to be owned by a Danilo Surban, 51, of Sampaloc, Manila. Police invited Surban and his driver Nilo Manansala, 38, for questioning. Police said the chemicals came from Metro Manila and were being delivered to Zambales when the car was stopped at the checkpoint. Police said the chemicals have no transport and other permits from the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority. Surban said the chemicals would be delivered to San Felipe town and will be used as pesticide for mango orchards.

Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Rice impounded

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—Authorities here on Thursday prevented the unloading of at least P39-million worth of rice shipment from Vietnam for lack of import permits from the National Food Authority. Police said they discovered 39,000 bags of imported rice from the MV Victoria Uno chartered by Prudential Brokerage Inc. The shipment was consigned to the Bollard International Corp. Police invited the vessel's broker and agent to ask them to produce the rice shipment's documents. Police provided security for the vessel until proper documents and permits from the NFA are secured.

Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk

26 OFWs rescued

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) rescued 26 overseas Filipino workers from Pampanga and Bataan who were reportedly maltreated in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates. The OFWs' relatives earlier sought the help of Pampanga Vice Gov. Juan Miguel Arroyo's help in rescuing the victims. Arroyo, in turn, coordinated with the Owwa for the safe return of the workers to their families. The workers said they were forced to work in a 24-feet deep sewerage system without any safety gadgets. They said they also did not receive their salary during their four-month stay in Abu Dhabi. The workers said they were hired by a Makati City-based employment agency as construction workers but were instead made to work as utility men in June this year.

Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2003

ISSN 0116-2642
INQUIRER
Vol. 18 No. 280

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

OPINION

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
• Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
• P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
• Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
• Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 • Advertising 897-4807
• Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
Editor in Chief **Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc**
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Power to probe

EDITORIAL

SOME issues concerning the current inquiry into the Jose Pidal accounts could be cleared up if everyone would just visit the website of the Senate of the Philippines, particularly the section on powers and functions.

The Senate website says that "in the past, [the] power of legislative investigation was much abused by those who used it for illegal ends or the browbeat or intimidate witnesses, usually for grandstanding purposes only." It was to correct these excesses, it says, that it is now provided that the power of Congress to conduct investigations is intended to be in aid of legislation.

"Congress does not have the power to conduct investigations merely for the sake of conducting investigations," the website says. "Legislative investigation is not an end itself for it is merely a means to an end. It is a tool to enable Congress to legislate wisely."

The website says that the US Supreme Court enumerated the subject matter of legislative inquiries, and said that "it comprehends probes into departments of the… [g]overnment to expose corruption, inefficiency or waste." The Senate inquiry into the Jose Pidal case is supposedly intended to expose corruption. But so far, what Sen. Panfilo Lacson has alleged is that what has been deposited in bank accounts is the surplus of campaign contributions to Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Senators themselves and lawyers have said that no crime is committed in depositing campaign contributions in banks. A crime is committed if what is laundered are the proceeds of a crime such as kidnapping, bank robbery, extortion or bribery. But so far no evidence has been presented to show that the bank deposits in the Jose Pidal accounts—if indeed there are such deposits—are the proceeds of a crime.

The Senate website also says that "the power of congressional investigation, broad and all—encompassing as it may be, is subject to certain recognized limitations." Thus, it says, "there is no general authority to expose the private affairs of individuals without justification in terms of the functions of Congress… No inquiry is an end in itself; it must be related to and in furtherance of a legitimate task of Congress." So it may be asked whether the allegation of illicit relations between First Gentleman Miguel Arroyo and his secretary-accountant, Vicky Toh, is a legitimate subject of a Senate inquiry.

The website says that "Congress cannot investigate purely private affairs, because it cannot legislate on them." But it adds that "Congress can inquire into private affairs if they affect matters on which Congress can legislate."

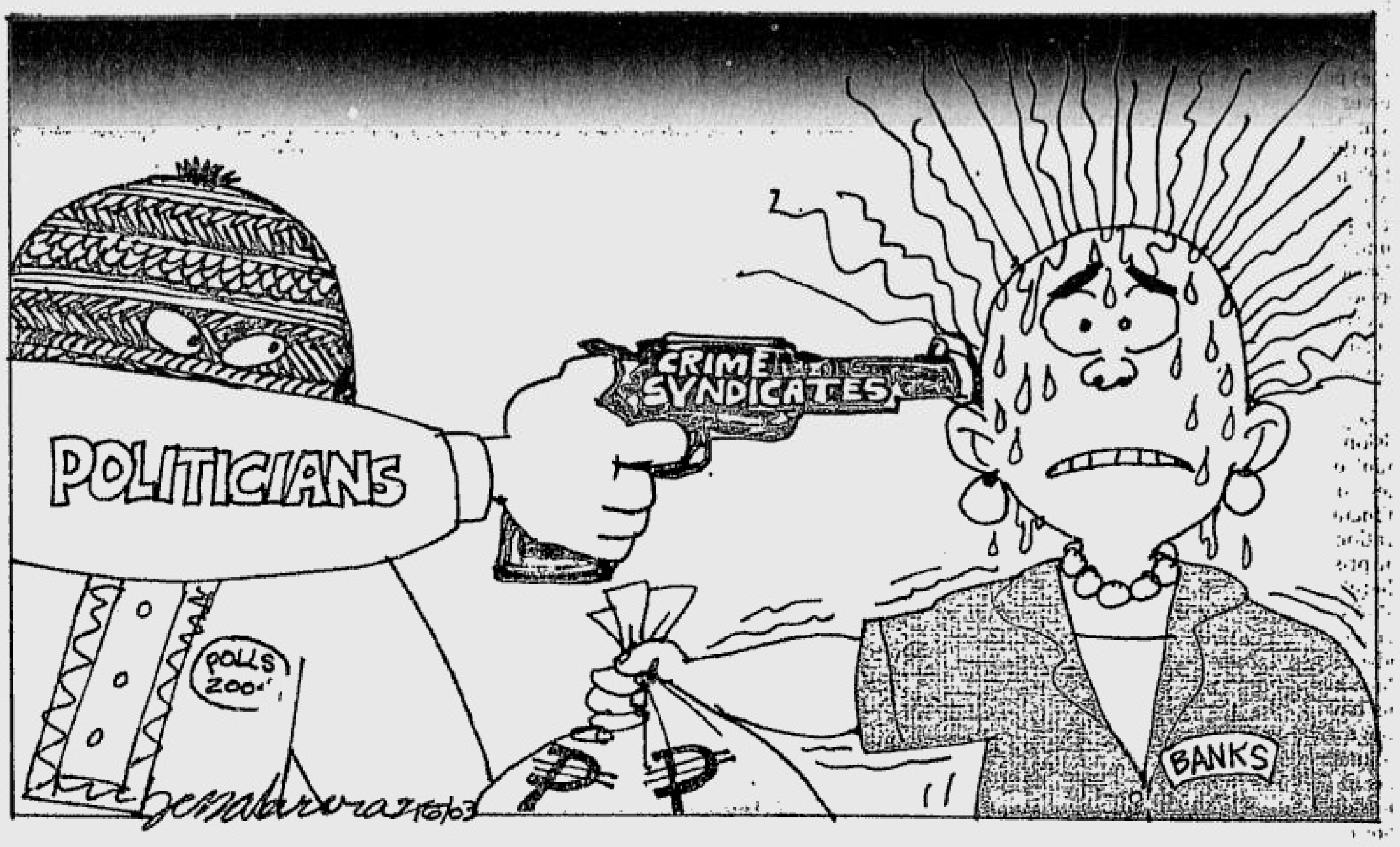
The website discusses the issue of public need versus private rights. It quotes US vs. Rumely, where it was held that a mere semblance of legislative purpose would not justify an inquiry in the face of the Bill of Rights. In this case the US Supreme Court said: "We cannot simply assume, however, that every congressional investigation is justified by a public need that overbalances any private rights affected. To do so would be to abdicate the responsibility placed by the Constitution upon the judiciary to insure that the Congress does not unjustifiably encroach upon an individual's right to privacy nor abridge his liberty of speech, press, religion or assembly."

It now appears, going by what the Senate website says, that Ignacio Arroyo, younger brother of the First Gentleman, was well within his rights when he invoked the right to privacy in refusing to answer the senators' questions. But some people say that he should have invoked the right to self-incrimination which is provided for by the Constitution. Probably he did not invoke this right because such an invocation would have implied that he might have committed an illegal or criminal act.

To return to the limitations enumerated by the Constitution on the exercise of the congressional power to investigate. One limitation is that "the rights of persons appearing in or affected by such inquiries shall be respected."

This limitation may not have been scrupulously followed. Television coverage of the Senate hearings would tend to show that the rule has been more honored in the breach. Witnesses or resource persons who are supposed to be "guests" of the Senate committees are browbeaten, shouted at and intimidated. There is a lot of grandstanding "in aid of reelection." The partisan colors of senators show in their questioning of witnesses. Is this any way to conduct a sober inquiry?

We suggest that the senators visit their website. They may find there the answers to some of the questions they are facing in the Jose Pidal inquiry.



Fact-finding probe, not a trial

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

MANY people miss the whole point of Senate hearings. It is not a court trial to determine the guilt or innocence of any person. Rather, it is a fact-finding investigation in aid of legislation.

What does this mean? The Senate is gathering information to help it craft intelligent legislation—in the case of the Jose Pidal hearings, to improve both the Anti-Money Laundering Law and the Bank Secrecy Law. That is why it is inviting resource persons who can give the needed information. The Arroyo brothers and the bank officials are among those resource persons. But how can they help when they refuse to answer questions and instead invoke their "right to privacy" and the bank secrecy law? And so the Senate hearing is stymied and pro-Arroyo people are using this to pressure the Senate into aborting the investigation.

Even some senators don't understand the purpose of the hearings. Sen. Francis Pangilinan said Sen. Panfilo Lacson must first present his evidence. To repeat, this is not a trial by a court of law that is governed by the Rules of Court, where the prosecution must present its evidence, followed by the defense. It is a summary hearing, and its principal purpose is to gather information. Its main mission is not to declare the Arroyo brothers guilty or not. If the Senate finds prima facie evidence against them, it will endorse its findings to the Department of Justice or the Ombudsman for further investigation and, if warranted, for the filing of charges in court. Thus, the wish of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo to be "charged in court" will be fulfilled.

But to file a case in court prematurely will only derail the Senate hearings which, as a result, will be sub-judice. Which means the Senate cannot finish its work by the end of this administration, or even the next, as you know how slow the courts are, and a case of this sort can take 10 years or more. Look at the Marcos ill-gotten wealth cases which have been going on for more than 16 years now still with no end in sight.

Ignacio Arroyo came out of the blue to claim that the Jose Pidal bank accounts don't belong to his big brother Mike but to him. It does not follow that this claim has been accepted by the Senate or by the public. Iggy must prove that he is really Jose Pidal. That is elementary. No person can just claim a bank deposit, otherwise you can have thousands of people claiming the millions deposited in the name of Jose Pidal and withdraw them.

That is what the Senate was trying to ascertain with those questions for the Arroyos and the bank officials. When did he open the bank accounts? Where did the money come from? Who accepted his account? The banks themselves would ask claimants to sign their name several times to compare these with the specimen signatures. But how can a claimant prove that he is who he says he is, if he refuses to answer questions and sign his name?

The Arroyo brothers have embarked on a new public relations campaign by appearing on television talk shows, smiling, joking, taking pictures, doing everything to endear themselves to the public. But they refuse to answer questions relating to the Jose Pidal account, continuing to invoke "the right to privacy." Why? What are they afraid of? An innocent person telling the truth will not be afraid to answer any question. Because he knows the questions and answers will lead to his exoneration. But a person trying to hide something will refuse to answer questions lest he makes a mistake. No talk, no mistake.

And he will want to abort any investigation as quickly as possible as it may unearth evidence incriminating him. The sooner it is ended, the sooner the danger is over.

Some people say the investigation should be terminated because Lacson has not proven anything. They even produce bank certifications that no Jose Pidal accounts "exists" in their banks. Neither are there any Victoria Toh nor Kelvin Tan, etc. accounts.

The banks may be telling the truth, but with mental reservations. The certifications say "exists," meaning at present, in which case they are telling the truth. But the questioned bank accounts may have existed in the past and are now closed.

What further proof is needed? Ignacio Arroyo himself has admitted that he has a Jose Pidal account—in fact, two accounts. Vicky Toh, her brother and brother-in-law have also admitted that they have bank accounts in their names. And the Arroyo brothers have admitted that campaign contributions have been deposited in the banks. In other words, Lacson's claims that there are Jose Pidal and Toh bank accounts, and that campaign contributions have been deposited have been proven.

However, Iggy claims the Jose Pidal accounts are his. So do the Toh siblings. These they still have to prove. That is what the Senate wants to determine. But how can the Senate make any conclusion if the resource persons refuse to answer questions that may or may not prove the ownership of the deposits?

I also believe that the accounts have been imbued with public interest because two crimes may have been committed here. While it may be true that the deposits are not public funds but campaign donations, the law nevertheless dictates that the recipients pay taxes on the donations. This, they have not done. The law also mandates that the recipients must declare the contributions to the Commission on Elections. This, they have also not done. (They declared only P50 million.) Hence, strike two.

When someone commits a crime, he loses any right to privacy. He becomes a public figure.

Resign

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

THERE is an option GMA should seriously consider. That is to resign.

I am by no means overstating my case. That is not necessarily a negative thing. If GMA resigns, she will unite the country and so leave a legacy of something good in the end. People will always remember Marcos as the tyrant who balked at shooting people power, which Ver wanted.

Last year, I suggested something similar in the wake of a steep plunge in the credibility of government, a trend that was evident not just in the surveys (they are not always reliable) that showed GMA's approval rating to have gone into free fall but in conversations one heard in many places. The peso was being battered even then and GMA herself was assailed by corruption charges. Chief of them the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard, which had little to show for the fortune that was spent on it.

I suggested that GMA do the very thing she had been asking others to do, which was to rise above self-interest and personal ambition and think of the nation first. I suggested she make the ultimate sacrifice and declare she would not run again. That way she would unite the various groups in society and prove she was a statesman rather than a politician; to use Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's distinction: "A politician thinks of elections, a statesman thinks of the nation."

She did, last Dec. 30. The sigh of relief was audible, and almost overnight the economy experienced a tremendous surge. The nation discovered a new sense of confidence and purpose. I was one of those who loudly praised GMA for her decision, calling it a courageous act, whether the product of force majeure or not. I said if she would only stop posturing about fighting terrorism and hark back to the dreams of Edsa II, I would be her loyal servant.

The way it looks now, her decision was taken merely to buy time and score points with the public. She has accomplished neither. Indeed, her obvious desire to run again, presumably because that is what George Bush and other Asian leaders want—which, even if true, can only mean other countries wish us ill—has plunged the country deeper into perdition. Last year, there was only factionalism and disunity. Today, there is turmoil and strife.

Other Asian leaders, when faced by the prospect that their continued stay in office would ruin the country, resign posthaste. And so salvage whatever is left of their dignity, enough to be able to live on without fear of scorn afterwards. Thaksin had all sorts of advice to give this country's bureaucrats about how to make the nation prosper, but his best advice was the one he did not give, the one thing he simply embodied. That is a sense of pride, that is a sense of dignity, that is a sense of country. This is not a man who will cling to power or wear thin his people's hospitality. That is what has made Thailand and countries like Japan, Korea and Vietnam reach dizzying heights. They have leaders—and citizens—who have pride, dignity and honor.

GMA resigns, and Teofisto Guingona can act as caretaker president till the next elections, by the same principle that enabled GMA to become President: he is next in line. He is also far more deserving. He was one of the pillars of Edsa II, the senator who called for Erap's impeachment in the Senate while GMA had a forefinger held aloft to find out where the wind blew. His vision hews to the spirit of Edsa II where GMA's betrays it. Edsa II was above all about freedom and democracy, the real kind and not the one peddled by the "war against terror," which has only brought back corruption and despotism into the country with a vengeance. Guingona was fired precisely for fighting to keep the spirit of Edsa II alive, by objecting forcefully to GMA's sellout of the country.

GMA resigns and she will heal the country overnight. What is her alternative? There seems only one. It is being made to.

The exposés and protests and coup threats are not going to go away, they are going to intensify as the year draws to a close. The only thing that is keeping legitimate protesters at bay is their fear or detestation of a coup. That is what GMA has been harping on. You protest her rule and you play into the hands of coup plotters. But that deterrent isn't going to hold up for very long. Not least because the argument is spurious.

The choice is not between GMA and a coup, or between democracy and dictatorship. The choice is between GMA and a coup on one hand and the people and democracy on the other. I will continue to maintain that GMA and a coup go together not just because she is vulnerable to one but because she has made coups possible by her "war against terror."

I do not buy the analysis that coup plotters are astir once more because GMA, like Cory, is an unelected president, the product of "people power." The fact that a bank is vulnerable does not necessarily mean it will be robbed. For the robbery to happen, you must have gangs that have been empowered to rob banks. Vulnerability merely offers opportunity, not means. It is GMA's "war against terror" that has provided the means for coups. It has empowered coup plotters. It has turned the military back into the praetorian guards of the republic, the presumed protectors of freedom against its enemies.

So long as GMA remains in power and prosecutes her "war against terror," so long will coups continue to plague the republic.

The only significance GMA's not being elected has is that she does not have to be impeached to be replaced. More than Cory, who also came to power on the wings of a direct mandate from the people, GMA, who did so with the people giving it grudgingly, exists on the sufferance of the people. We hired her, we can fire her.

Unless she makes the graceful exit, and resigns.

Legarda to run with Cojuangco?

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

SOME media commentators noted recently that Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda virtually bolted the ruling Lakas party with her recent "endorsement" of Eduardo Cojuangco during Tarlac Rep. Jesli Lapus' birthday in Concepcion. Legarda was quoted as saying that Cojuangco is the "only one who understands and can offer solutions to (the) problems" facing the country and that he deserves support in case he decides to run for president. Her remarks merely cemented the perception that she's aiming to be his running mate, and she's not been coy about this. In Cagayan de Oro two months ago, she arrived in Cojuangco's private plane, and when the media asked if she was running with him, she was said to have replied, "Obvious *ba*?" Reports said Legarda's increasingly obvious preference for Cojuangco has made some Lakas leaders, who are rooting for President Macapagal-Arroyo, opine that Legarda "has no business staying with the party."

* * *

Legarda's efforts to woo Cojuangco even a decision to bolt Lakas would not surprise her administration colleagues in the Senate who find her voting with the opposition on many issues difficult to understand, since she is the administration's whip in the chamber. Neither would it surprise political pundits, considering that there's no room for a female vice president in GMA's line-up if she runs. On the other hand, Lacson's unsavory reputation as a "police state" advocate would make her shirk from him. Raul Roco has consistently rated well in surveys but his having no party and little money makes it tough for a running mate. The problem with a Cojuangco-Legarda ticket, however, is that she has to provide all the pizzazz to a team whose presidential candidate has little appeal to the *masa*, aside from being hobbled by enormous Marcos and coco levy baggage. That can be a tough job even for Loren if she is pitting against Noli de Castro or Roco. But one thing is certain: her departure from Lakas would upset the balance of power in the Senate.

* * *

The two recent exposés by Sen. Panfilo Lacson were dazzling in their use of high-powered advertising campaign techniques. But it has become obvious that plenty of razzle-dazzle was needed to cover up the fact that those exposés were *ampao* or shot through with holes. The first two banks he mentioned, Union Bank and Bank of the Philippine Islands, said they had Jose Pidal accounts in 1998, but these were closed in 2001. Seven other banks where Jose Pidal and Vicky Toh allegedly maintained joint accounts, according to Lacson, have issued statements denying the existence of such accounts. Among the banks that issued denials was the Taiwan-based International Bank of China, which dates from the Ching dynasty. In the light of all these denials, the Senate has no option but to close the hearings. Lacson has no case against those he has accused of wrongdoing.

* * *

I read Senate Committee Report 237 issued by three committees, led by that of Sen. Robert Barbers, which held joint hearings on the alleged involvement of Lacson and his key officers in the defunct PAOCTF in drug-trafficking, kidnapping for ransom and other illegal activities. Compared to Lacson's evidence in the Jose Pidal issue, what Mary "Rosebud" Ong and other witnesses quietly built up by way of evidence against him and his officers was staggering. The evidence included bank statements, cancelled checks, plane tickets, hotel registry entries and a myriad other minutiae that built up into what Sen. Ramon Magsaysay termed "substantial and sufficient enough to justify a conclusion." The conclusion: Lacson should be be investigated and/or charges should be filed against him by the Department of Justice:

* * *

By contrast, in the Pidal case, Lacson alleged wrongdoing by First Gentleman Miguel Arroyo but with all the banks denying the existence of the accounts, he has nothing. I caught Sen. Edgardo Angara saying on TV that the Senate should throw away Ignacio Arroyo's invocation of his right to privacy since the Pidal case is imbued with "public interest" arising from "alleged corruption surrounding the First Family." But until now Lacson has not submitted evidence that money in any existing Pidal account came from "illegal means." These include those derived from "fruits of crime" such as illegal gambling, drug trafficking, etc., or stolen public funds, or bribery of a public official. Lacson himself said in the first exposé that the Pidal funds came from unused campaign funds, but as prominent election lawyer Romulo Macalintal has pointed out, keeping this funds is not illegal under our laws. Instead of "public interest," Macalintal opines that the reason for the hearings is "political interest."

* * *

Earlier I noted out that those dazzling Powerpoint presentations of Lacson were made by veteran ad man Greg Garcia, former president and executive creative director of the Hemisphere-Leo Burnett advertising agency (until 2000). I then asked how the firm's foreign partner was taking its being embroiled in a political project, considering that it had many big multinational accounts. The agency's managing director, March Ventosa, wrote to inform me that the agency "does not handle political accounts nor do advertising for political parties and candidates" and that it has a policy of "refusing to work for any political party, sect or organization spreading ideological propaganda." She said that "we refuse to engage in campaigns of a partisan nature, in whatever form"; neither does the company allow its resources to be used for partisan activities.

Non-partisanship is Hemisphere-Leo Burnett's official line and a sensible one for a multinational firm. But Ventosa was silent on the fact that Garcia, who retains part ownership, prepared those Powerpoint presentations.

Of weddings and partings

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IT seemed like a scenario straight out of "My Best Friend's Wedding." Over much of the weekend, I was a guest at the nuptials of Doni Flor and Lingling Rodriguez in Davao, an event that entailed complex arrangements and detailed scheduling, what with friends and family flying in from Manila, Bacolod, Cebu, Baguio and many other places, all converging in the bride's hometown for a ceremony that had been, in essence, more than a decade in the making.

I was a guest of Doni's aunt, his father's youngest sister, Bacolod Councilor Celia Flor, who, upon finding out that we would be in Davao around the same time, urged me to postpone my departure so I could be at the wedding.

Though based in Manila, Doni's parents "Baby" and Mimi Flor, are from Negros Occidental, so quite a number of the guests were family and friends from Bacolod and environs. Among them was Doni's grandmother, Manila Rodriguez (no relation to Lingling!) Flor, who, at 89, was game enough not just to make the trip to Davao from Bacolod, but also to take part in all the activities lined up for the guests, from lunch at the Eden Nature Park, to shopping at Aldevinco's and the BIMP-EAGA Trade Fair. The only part of the festivities she passed on was the post-wedding picnic lunch at Paradise Beach Club, a resort the Rodriguezes own on Samal Island, but only because "Mama" said she gets nauseous whenever traveling by sea.

That weekend, I was virtually adopted by the Flor clan, for together with Celia and her mother were "Mama's" sisters, Marne Lobaton and Nelly Landingin, Tita Marne's daughter-in-law Anabelle, and Manang Mimi's niece Sylvia.

* * *

AT THE *DESPEDIDA de soltera* (literally, farewell to maidenhood) dinner hosted by Lingling's parents, Julian "Chiching" and Purita Rodriguez, I met not just the rest of the Rodriguez family, but Mimi's friends from the travel industry and the Soroptimists, as well as some of Lingling's *barkada* from Manila, including friends from her UP Repertory days, one of them well-known comic impersonator Jon Santos.

It was Jon, and later, the groom's mother, who provided the back story to Doni and Lingling's wedding. They had been college sweethearts, it seems, but drifted apart after a few years. Ironically, it was Manang Mimi who sparked the romance some 13 years later, getting the two of them together after she met Lingling again during a travel industry affair (Lingling works with Air Philippines). After over a year of dating, the couple, having had their share of life experiences, apparently decided it was time to settle down.

Given the complicated arrangements necessary to pull off the occasion, guests might have tolerated a hitch or two. Instead, it was one of the best-organized events, I've observed, from the transportation arrangements to and from the church, to the reception at the Davao Waterfront Insular, and even to sending off guests as they went home.

They say that if a couple survives the wedding preparations still in love with each other, then they have a good chance of sustaining their marriage. From this vantage point, I guess Doni and Lingling face a bright future together.

* * *

STRAIGHT from the airport, we rushed to the Carlos P. Romulo Theater at the RCBC Plaza to catch the last performance of "The Last Five Years," sponsored by pagbabago@pilipinas. The musical tells the story of a couple whose marriage has just broken up, from the opposing points of view of husband and wife, following opposite timelines.

The contrast—between the story of a relationship on the skids, and a wedding that was the culmination of a romance that survived a decade's separation—was sharp and biting. Perhaps sitting through a performance of "The Last Five Years" should be compulsory for all affianced couples, if only to let them see, through the fog of romance, the realities of marriage, of the demands it makes on individuals egos and personal dreams.

Menchu Lauchengco Yulo and Audie Gemora, whose 25 years in theater was celebrated by this staging, were excellent, truly engaging and filling the theater with energy and genuine emotion. It seems indeed a waste that people with such talent as theirs should languish in relative anonymity, while lesser talents should enjoy fame and multi-million-peso endorsements on the strength of a pretty face and media hype. Menchu's audition scene, hilarious and affecting, sums up the years of hardship that dedicated partisans of theater must invest in a craft that, for those who truly love it, is rarely about fame and money.

* * *

BUT if "The Last Five Years" was a downer after the Davao wedding, then the final event of the last weekend restored my faith in marriage, friendship and family.

Our friends Jesselynn and Romy dela Cruz celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary Sunday evening at Club Filipino, in an intimate ceremony and wedding that, so their children Jayee, Arjay and Dijee confided, was rushed in the record time of two weeks.

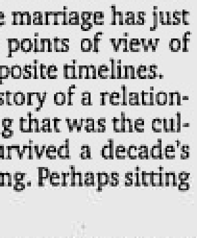
Having known the couple from our student days in the UST and the Varsitarian, there was no question of missing the occasion, that and the prospect of meeting up once again with the old *barkada*, trading reminiscences, hoary jokes, insults and raunchy anecdotes about the "silver" couple.

Jayee, a law student at UP, lent a "senti" note to the happy occasion when she recalled her mother's advice about choosing the man to marry. "She told me: choose a man who will be good not just to you, but to the world." And from what she saw, said Jayee, she could tell that her parents truly cared "not just for each other, but for everyone they have encountered." It's enough to make the years worth it, yes?

And now Pampanga

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper



BACOLOR, 13 leagues from the city and now buried in lahar, was once the capital of Pampanga. The Spaniards divided the province into highlands and lowlands and considered its climate benign especially in the spring. (One has to wonder what they were thinking of or if the weather has changed that much.) The most populated area was the lowland whose fertility and beauty gave an advantage to all its products. Everywhere you could see orchards and plantations that gladdened the eye and offered restful shade from the rays of the sun.

On par with the multitude of plants and roots that could be eaten and taken medicinally that the earth gave spontaneously, the harvests of rice and corn were extremely abundant. There were two rice harvests a year interspersed with one of corn, and if the rains were delayed, there were three. (Looking at the present lunar landscape and even before Pinatubo, it's hard to imagine a verdant central plain. Reading these old descriptions one can understand now why it was called the rice granary.)

There was the rice of the plains and that of the mountains. These two were again subdivided into *guiriri* and *guinarayon*. Mountain rice was planted after the first rains. During that time, the Aetas and even other farmers burned all the vegetation and dug with poles a huge hole in the ground where they placed the rice grains.

The rice in the plains was planted in June and was scattered in the mud. Later the "breeder" was formed from where the plantings were taken when these reached 8 to 10 inches in length. These were then put in, stalk by stalk, with ample space provided. The harvest was in November and all the inhabitants of whatever sex would gather employing themselves in the pleasure of the chore that resembled a fiesta.

Tobacco was called *gapan*—also the name of a town that was once in Pampanga but was later made part of Nueva Ecija. Not only was the harvest abundant but it was of good quality.

There was a lot of indigo, too, which was exported. After rice, no other crop was more profitable than sugar cane which was very fine and plentiful. This was sent to Manila and exported to Europe in the days before Equal and other sugar substitutes.

A lot of *ajonjoli* oil was extracted (which leads me to wonder why we're importing sesame oil, which is what *ajonjoli* is after all and why we're not growing it anymore) as well as of *humbano* and *tangantagan*. While cocoa was scarce, there was a lot of lentils enough to export as well as to eat. (Maybe the author meant *mongo* and not really lentils as we know them now. But whichever of the two it was, neither is being exported. As a matter of fact, we're probably importing mongo beans.) There were 57 known varieties of bananas in almost all the provinces. (Does anyone know how many varieties are left?)

According to the author, not only tuba was made from *buri* but bread as well. (This I didn't know and I doubt that you did.) A lot of *nipa* was also found. Pampanga wasn't coconut country but the land did produce a palm with a fruit called *bonga*. *Buyo* was cultivated but it was inferior to that produced in Tondo. (Imagine Tondo actually producing palms!)

Coffee was not well known, but soap was manufactured out of *gogo* and a specie of palm grew from whose trunk a material like wool was extracted that served for pillows and tinder. (No, I have no idea what this palm is. Your guess is as good as mine.)

In the mountains were excellent lumber trees and iron mines. There was also plenty of gold, chalk, rubber, resins and good varnish.

There was abundant game, and in one year more than 3,000 deer, buffaloes, wild boars and other wild animals were caught in the town of Tarlac. Abundant as well was leather from livestock, horses and domesticated buffaloes. The Kapampangans did not pay too much attention to sheep, of which there weren't many, but they attended to the breeding of goats that increased daily due to the favorable climate and pastures and the painstaking care they took.

The Kapampangans sold the horns of oxen and buffaloes. They had pottery workshops, soap factories and lime ovens. They made tiles, bricks and had many weaving looms. The majority were farmers, while others dedicated themselves to artifacts and a number to fishing, hunting and manufacturing *cascos* and *bancas* for small embarkations. The women wove blankets, stripped cotton, overskirts and *sinamay* of silk and cotton. They would spin yarn as well as sew clothes. Many were dedicated to interior commerce. They also employed agricultural workers in the ceramic shops, and in the oil presses of *ajonjoli*, *humbano* and *tangantangan*.

The Kapampangan, with his language and distinct character, stood out among Filipinos. They were the most Hispanized and yet managed to retain their individual character. They remained loyal to the crown almost to the end.

In 1871, there were 160,000 residents, *remontados* in the mountains and settlements of Aetas, called Balugas by the Kapampangans.

Time to go

I HAVE been in the University of the Philippines for 10 years now. Six of those years were spent earning a bachelor in arts degree that I should have completed in four. Overlapping the six years were three colorful years I spent brushing elbows with some of our country's rich, powerful and famous but mostly with the poor, the homeless and the common people as part of a *gamelan* performing in exclusive gatherings or to packed halls or in free-for-all street jams.

YOUNG BLOOD

Karen Asuncion R. Panol

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

I have yet to set foot on Batanes, but I have journeyed to the easternmost, westernmost and southernmost places in our country and even had the good fortune to see the world during a trip that took several months.

I also spent seven years off and with Pahinungód, the university's volunteer service program. I have varicose veins to show for the five years that I have been an "Eco-Camper," working side by side with people of different communities, planting thousands of mahogany seedlings on mountain slopes, bringing down truckloads of trash from camp sites and staking "Take nothing but..." pla-cards along hiking trails.

I have put together three volumes of journal entries after a year's stint as a "teacher to the barrios." I can cover one side of the wall of my room with the certificates of appreciation, attendance, participation and recognition I got from attending leadership training seminars, teacher training conferences, summer camp training sessions and volunteer training programs I have gone through or facilitated.

But for months now, I have been trying to summon enough gumption to cut the umbilical cord that ties me to my alma mater, which has been the be-all and end-all of my existence for the past 10 years.

UP has given me sustenance in the same way it has nourished other "bright young minds" (those are the words of other people, not mine) by providing me with a multitude of opportunities to grow and experiences to learn from and become a productive member of society. I have been educated by some of the best minds in our country who are part of the academe—inside the classroom as a student and outside during breakfast meetings or over "gin bulag" as an employee of the university. To this day, I continue to learn from them.

More importantly, UP gave more meaning to my life and fed my soul when I became a Pahinungód. It taught me the meaning of cooperation, giving, love of fellowmen, selfless service, social responsibility, spirit and many, many other valuable lessons about the essence of living.

But most of all, UP opened my eyes to the real world. It taught me that many things in life should be taken with a grain of salt. I learned I had taken six years to finish my four-year course at the expense of taxpayers' good money. That taking too much time off from academics "to see the world" meant prolonging my parents' tuition-related distress. Recently, that dedicating myself to the work I love does not guarantee me job security. And that something stronger than the heart of a volunteer is the determination of a UP administration that is bent on streamlining and cutting its budget.

I have learned that much as I love UP, it does not feel anything—cannot feel anything—for me, and that while it formed me, this was done out of duty and design, just part of the job.

I have been staying in UP for 10 years now. And it really is time to go.

Karen Asuncion R. Panol, 27, works as an information officer at the UP Ugnayan ng Pahinungód Office, which is being threatened with abolition.

Superman

Russell Stanley Q. Geronimo

IN OUR school, I can be anyone. I am a superman.

First I have the power to stand alone. I am independent. I can put things on my palm and make them to do my bidding. I get to solve my problems using my own strategy and tactics. I am strong. I can always be alone.

I have the power to go against the tide. I don't follow everybody's common thought. I am original. I survive, by my own principles and stratagems, enduring high school dilemmas. That's why I stand out.

I have the power of ideas. I have the will to speak my mind and get my audience to nod in agreement. I deliver the most remarkable speeches and I have the knack for understanding quickly scientific principles and philosophical ideas. Now tell me, what else does it takes to become a superman?

Young people like me are made, not born. I have to worship books and live in front of my computer all day. I have to become a nerd. I have to love what I'm doing, whether it is solving math problems, learning about astrophysics and cosmology, reading Friedrich Nietzsche's works, discovering the astonishing philosophy in "Summa Theologica," writing literary compositions, experimenting with writing a novel, discovering history or chatting with people on the Internet and arguing about the latest theories of metaphysics.

It has been a difficult life for me. I should be out there in the world, playing basketball, dancing in the rain, joining a *barkada* or dating a girl. But I realized early on that the more I love what I do, the lesser it feels like work, just like an eagle soaring to the highest peak or a drug addict on cloud nine. Becoming a superman turned into a passion.

One day, I asked myself, "Why am I not contented? Why do I still need to soar higher?"

I couldn't answer the question. Then I realized that I was not happy being alone. I felt lonely.

Gradually I saw the world around me. I was out in the cold. I had lost all my friends. When you're great, you are alone and your have to bear its consequences. That is the price of power.

I had everything I needed to understand life, but I didn't have anything to be happy about, I knew I needed people, but I had forgotten them.

Now I have learned my lesson. I don't have to lose my friends to win applause and recognition. After all, if I spend my life in pursuit of fame, it would be a useless quest.

This is the disadvantage of being a superman. Now, I would rather be a walking heart without a brain, because that lets me truly soar high above the sky.

Russell Stanley Q. Geronimo, 15, a student of St. Paul College of Ilocos Sur and a campus journalist.

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Also an assault on democracy

THE FREEDOM Fund for Filipino Journalists (FFFJ), organized to address the numerous and unremitting attacks against journalists and news organizations around the country, condemns the killing of Davao City broadcaster Juan "Jun" Pala on Sept. 6, 2003.

He had survived two earlier attempts on his life, last June 14, 2001 and April 29 this year.

The FFFJ notes that Pala was a controversial figure who was also a politician deeply involved in the activities of the vigilante group *Alsa Masa*, but he was apparently targeted as a radio commentator.

As in many other countries of the developing world, media in the Philippines have in their ranks individuals involved in politics as well as in government service, among other occupations, interests and concerns.

Pala was in this category of practitioner. In many cases, these practitioners are unfamiliar with the media professions' ethical and professional standards, and their practice is often seriously flawed.

Nevertheless, the FFFJ believes that the killing of any one for his or her media practice—no matter how imperfect that practice may be—affects the whole media community and poses a serious threat to Philippine democracy.

The FFFJ issues this clarification in the light of criticisms that to protest the killing of Pala is to somehow sanction his activities as a politician and vigilante spokesman, as well as his alleged corrupt practices as a broadcaster.

The killing of journalists is the most direct form of assault on press freedom and the democracy that guarantees it. That journalists in the Philippines are being killed with increasing frequency thus alarms the FFFJ. Pala is the sixth journalist killed this year, doubling the average of three journalists killed annually. This year's number of assassinations so far and that of 1987's are the highest ever recorded in the Philippines on a yearly basis. Pala's murder brings to 42 the number of journalists murdered since 1986. No one has been convicted for any of the slayings.

The five other journalists killed earlier this year were John Belen Villanueva Jr. of Legaspi City (April 28); Apolinario "Polly" Pobeda of Lucena City (May 17); Bonifacio Gregorio of Tarlac City (July 8); Noel Villarante of Sta. Cruz, Laguna (Aug. 19); and Rico Ramirez of San Francisco, Agusan del Sur (Aug. 20).

The killings of journalists—now already of crisis proportions—are rife with dire implications for human rights, the people's right to know, and for democracy itself.

The FFFJ therefore calls on all media and press organizations, non-governmental formations, and the public to demand quick police action on Pala's and the other journalists' killings, and to express in the clearest terms possible their support for a free press as well as opposition to media repression. The killing of journalists is the concern not only of the media community but also of every citizen.

—FREEDOM FUND FOR FILIPINO JOURNALISTS

The other 9/11

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

RIGHTLY so, people took time last week to mourn the victims of "9/11," a now familiar term used to refer to the barbaric terrorist assaults in New York and Washington on Sept. 11, 2001.

But last week's commemorations of 9/11 should have been a time to remember the tragic events of another "9/11"—30 years ago, when a US-instigated coup ousted Chilean President Salvador Allende and ushered in a bloody 17-year military dictatorship.

The coup in Chile certainly wasn't the first time the United States intervened in domestic politics. In the last 50 years, the international press has often referred to Latin America's banana republics, the term used to describe the never-ending coups that take place in many of these countries. The term has also been suggested for the Philippines, given our fondness for "regime change," one administration going after another like banana trees.

But the term "banana republic" can be deceptive, suggesting that Latin Americans (and, lately, Filipinos) are incapable of good government. What isn't mentioned is the role of US intervention in destabilizing governments. Often, as in the case of the Philippines, it is US involvement that keeps unpopular and corrupt leaders in power, leading to instability and insurgencies. In other cases, as in Chile in 1973, "leftist" leaders were popularly elected, but then brought down through the US Central Intelligence Agency's destabilization campaigns.

The Chilean case lingers in many people's memories because it was so brutal. The coup was led by Allende's own chief of staff, Augusto Pinochet, who ordered an air assault on La Moneda to force the president to surrender. Allende held his ground, managing to send out messages to the Chilean public and urging them to resist. In the end, Allende shot himself, but not without leaving a last message which is today engraved on a stone marker at La Moneda:

"Workers of my fatherland, have faith in Chile and her destiny. Others will overcome this grey, sad moment when treason strains to conquer. Go forward, knowing that much more sooner than later, the great avenues will open anew to let pass free people to build a better society."

Treason did conquer Chile. Known "leftist" leaders were rounded up and incarcerated in the national stadium, where many were tortured and killed. That was only the beginning of a reign of terror—by the time Pinochet stepped down from power, in 1990, at least 3,000 Chilean political dissidents had been killed or disappeared. Despite attempts to bring Pinochet to trial, he still lives, a free man, in Chile.

Ironically, Hollywood has helped to keep the memories of Chile's 9/11 alive and known to the global community. The gripping film "Missing" was about Chile, and the murder of an American who had been working in Chile.

Another Hollywood film, "House of the Spirits," dealt with a Chilean senator's family, torn apart by politics and the coup. The author of the novel on which the film was based knew the situation only too well; she was Isabel Allende, whose uncle was the deposed president. Allende's other novels occasionally offer glimpses into Chile's troubled past.

There is one area where the progressive legacy of Allende's Chile has influenced the world, often without our knowing it. This is world music. Beginning in the 1950s, Latin America saw the emergence of Nueva Cancion or New Music, a movement in different countries that sought to revive traditional music, using themes revolving around ordinary people's lives.

Not surprisingly, Nueva Cancion's pioneers were the politically progressive artists. The Chileans were particularly productive, especially during the Allende presidency. The best known of these artists was Victor Jara, who was among those rounded up after the coup and sent to the notorious stadium. The military broke his hands, then taunted him, asking him to play the guitar and sing his progressive songs. He was executed in that stadium but his songs were preserved and later distributed globally, which together with other Chilean groups such as Inti-illimani and Quilapayun, were to spur an interest in "ethnic" music and what we call world music today.

Jara was a folk singer, so his songs, although political, spoke of day to day events, set to lilting music rather than grim martial cadences. One song, "Recuerde te, Amanda" (I Remember You, Amanda), captures his memories of a woman whose husband had been killed in a strike:

"Amanda, I remember you Amanda, when the streets were wet, running to the factory, where Manuel worked. With your wide smile, the rain in your hair, nothing else mattered, as you went to meet him."

One of Victor Jara's songs was "La Plegaria a un Labrador" (Prayer of a Worker), based on the Lord's Prayer. The song was translated into Filipino during the Marcos dictatorship. It starts out: "Arise, look at the mountains, the source of the wind, the sun, the water. You who change the course of rivers, directing the flight of your soul." (I'm sorry, but the English translations will never capture the passion of the Spanish original.)

9/11 is a time to reflect on New York's Twin Towers, but we shouldn't forget the many other terrorist acts perpetrated throughout the world, from the brazen assault on La Moneda on Sept. 11, 1973 to the day to day injustices here at home.

9/11 is not just a time to mourn the dead, but a time to remember the courage of people like Allende, a time to remember life itself. I think now of the songs of Violeta Parra, another Chilean singer and Victor Jara's mentor. Her "Gracias a la Vida" (Thanks for Life) has been interpreted many times over by different artists, from Joan Baez to contemporary Latina singer Claudia Acuna. "Gracias" gives thanks for what comes with life: our senses, our feelings, and more. One passage captures it all:

"Life has given me sound and the alphabet, and with it the words to think and speak: mother, friend, brother, words that illuminate, brighten the path of the soul of my loved one."

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Pidal probe to continue; privacy issue unsettled

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At a closed-door meeting at the Mandarin Hotel in Makati City, Senators Joker Arroyo, Edgardo Angara and Sergio Osmeña III, along with Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., thumbed down Sen. Robert Barbers' motion to suspend or terminate the inquiry.

"We will not suspend the hearing. It's too late in the day to do that," said Pimentel, who attended the meeting upon Arroyo's insistence.

But they failed to resolve the legal issue on whether "Iggy" Arroyo could still invoke his right to privacy in subsequent hearings.

"That issue has to be resolved by the committee members at-large," said Pimentel. "So we will continue our consultations with the members of the committee."

Angara, who heads the committee on constitutional amendments, said: "We'll put the issue to a wider consultation with the [committee members]. The issue is privacy against the interest of the public."

Angara said that since many senators were currently abroad, the Senate should decide on the privacy issue when we "have a quorum."

"It will boil down to consensus. If you ask me, the majority of us would say that national interest must prevail and should prevail over the claim to privacy," Angara added.

He maintained that the Pidal issue was of "national interest" because even if one "is a private person . . . [it] does not exempt you from answering a relevant question of a legislative inquiry."

He said that the accusation of corruption "almost hitting the doorsteps of Malacañang was "paramount" and "the principal concern of every Filipino."

Indepedent ruling

Pimentel disclosed, however, that he, Angara and Osmeña had agreed to let Senator Arroyo make an independent ruling on the privacy issue.

"Senator Arroyo might issue his own ruling, but subject to the superior right of the committee members to decide on the issue," Pimentel said.

He said that "apparently, that is what the Senate rules say . . . that the chairman should decide once a constitutional issue is raised."

Arroyo chairs the committee on public accountability, or the blue ribbon, the primary committee tasked to investigate money-laundering charges Sen. Panfilo Lacson raised against First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

Osmeña chairs the banks committee, designated together with Angara's panel as secondary committees in the Jose Pidal probe.

Pimentel emphasized that committee members had the right to support the ruling or junk it once the committees meet again.

"It's a good thing that this matter [of privacy] will be resolved by the committees in general," he said.

Asked whether the committee members would uphold Ignacio's right over the power of the Senate to compel him to testify on a public issue, he said: "I don't think so."

Pimentel hailed the decision of the chairmen, saying "it augurs well for the power of the Senate to continue conducting inquiries in aid of legislation."

Third hearing

Pimentel added: "One thing is clear. A consensus emerged that the power of the Senate to make inquiries in aid of legislation should not be compromised."

Pimentel predicted that the third hearing on the Pidal probe would not take place this month.

"It looks like the decision to call for a resumption of the hearing would have to await the arrival of the members of the committees. Only a few are here. It would probably take place after the Senate resumes its session [on Oct. 6]," he said.

He made this admission at a news conference at the Senate last night shortly after he arrived from the Mandarin. The meeting started at 3:30 p.m. and lasted for 45 minutes.

He said the Barbers motion was denied because "the issues raised in the exposé had already acquired national interest. And therefore it is too late in the day just to sort of put an end to it without trying to enable Senator Lacson to produce the evidence."

Pimentel then reiterated that the ball was now in the courts of Lacson.. "It's very important for Senator Lacson to really exert effort to come up with evidence that is required by the committees."

Members excluded

"He would be required to produce evidence. There's no question about that. The committees are not prepared to accept photocopies. These should be substantiated by the originals."

But should senators fail to arrive at a consensus on the privacy issue, "naturally, a vote will have to be made."

A notice issued yesterday morning by the Blue Ribbon excluding the members of the joint committees from the meeting prompted some senators to protest.

Senator Arroyo did not say why, but the blue ribbon secretary, lawyer Emilia A. Pueyo, said the closed-door meeting of the joint chairmen was "without prejudice to an expanded meeting among all the members on a later date."

The notice did not disclose the venue and time of the meeting.

In separate interviews before the meeting, both Senate President Franklin Drilon and Pimentel said the result of the meeting would not be conclusive.

"They would have to submit to the entire membership, whatever is their consensus," said Drilon.

Drilon said there was nothing in the Senate rules that barred committee chairmen from having consultative meetings among themselves.

"But to be binding, the whole committees or the membership should vote on it," he stressed.

Administration Sen. Francis Pangilinan refused to impute ill motives to the chairs, saying they were just conferring with each other.

"They will compare notes, and then they will prepare a draft report and route it for signature."

"After conferring among themselves, they would have to ask us whether we will agree on not," said Pangilinan, adding: "It will be in a referendum-type (format)."

Before the meeting of the chairmen, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon appealed for members like him to be consulted on the issues.

"I consider this as a precedent-setting situation where we need to know once and for all what is covered by the right to privacy of any individual especially if that individual ceases to be a private person," Biazon told reporters.

He said he was against the suspension of the inquiry.

House reaction

Speaker Jose de Venecia refused to join the clamor for the Senate to terminate its investigation of the Jose Pidal accounts.

"I will just leave it to their (senators) conscience whether to proceed or phase out its investigation," De Venecia said.

Citing inter-parliamentary courtesy, De Venecia said that while the Jose Pidal issue has adversely affected the country, particularly the First Couple, he would rather see the Senate focusing on vital legislative matters pending before it.

Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez said some 106 national bills and more than 500 local ones were pending before the Senate either for approval or discussion.

Meanwhile, Gelacio Mamaril, lawyer for Victoria Toh, the personal accountant of the First Gentleman, issued a counter-challenge to Osmeña, who had dared his client to come home to answer charges that she bought a house in Canada worth more than $800,000.

Mamaril told the INQUIRER that Osmeña should first show "solid and concrete evidence" of the purported sale.

At the same time, Mamaril denied that his client bought the residence as alleged by Osmeña. *With reports from Cynthia Balana, Alcuin Papa, Leila Salaverria*

Ethics body takes up PCSO complaint vs Lacson

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE SENATE ethics committee has formally taken cognizance of the complaint lodged by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office against opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Committee chair Sen. Francis Pangilinan told the INQUIRER yesterday that his committee had already assumed jurisdiction over the complaint, and that he had ordered the committee secretariat over the weekend to "evaluate the complaint."

But he said that the action "does not necessarily mean that a hearing is forthcoming."

"We're still reviewing the complaint and evaluating the proper course of action," he said.

He stressed that he had yet to seek the opinion of leaders of both blocs of the Senate on how to go about the ethics inquiry.

Pangilinan had been reluctant to open an inquiry into the PCSO complaint because of its implications vis-á-vis the joint committees' inquiry into the Jose Pidal accounts.

On Sept. 9, seven PCSO officials led by Ma. Livia "Honey Girl" S. De Leon charged Lacson before the committee "for irresponsible, malicious, damaging and unfounded accusations tending to destroy the integrity and reputation of the PCSO."

Rich vs poor: World trade talks collapse

From page A1

tory for developing countries that showed unity in pressing their demands, particularly for the reduction of agriculture subsidies.

But US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick insisted the question was not one of developed or developing, but one of "can do" and "won't do" countries. "The rhetoric of 'won't do' overwhelmed the concerted efforts of the 'can do.' 'Won't do' led to the impasse."

He said "the larger lesson of Cancún is that useful compromise . . . requires a serious willingness to focus on work—not rhetoric—to attain the fine balance between ambition and flexibility."

European Union Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy bemoaned the collapse of the conference, insisting the European Union made concessions in all areas.

Trade pact in danger

"We could have gained, all of us, we have lost, all of us," he said, adding that while the current round of trade liberalization talks was not dead, "it is in intensive care."

A much-vaunted world trade pact due to be hammered out by the end of next year is now in danger, much to the delight of antiglobalization activists.

Poor nations boasted they had scored a political victory in proving they would no longer be bullied into a bad deal by the dominant trading powers, the United States and Europe.

"We have always alerted people that unless they listen to the developing countries . . . this is what will happen," said Malaysia's trade minister, Rafidah Aziz.

The WTO had billed the meeting in this Caribbean beach resort as a chance to boost confidence in the already fragile world economy.

Although diplomats saw little risk of a relapse into the sort of protectionism that wrecked the world economy in the 1930s, they said the talks' failure could hasten the formation of regional trading blocs and country-to-country deals.

Ironically, the main losers of such a trend could be the same poor countries that flexed their muscles here. Their economies are too weak to make them attractive partners in bilateral deals.

US and EU negotiators complained that Brazil, India and other key developing countries had brought more rhetoric than proposals to the negotiating table.

They also said it would now be very tough to meet the WTO's own deadline for a comprehensive reform in world trade by the end of 2004. The World Bank says a good accord could add $520 billion to world incomes by 2015 and lift 144 million people out of poverty.

"It is hard for me to believe, in the position we are now, that we will be able to finish on time," Zoellick said.

Singapore issues

The European Union was joined by some other rich nations in pressing for new rules on investment, competition, government procurement and cutting red tape that holds up trade—known as trade facilitation in WTO jargon.

In the end, it was that last issue that killed the meeting.

Delegates said the conference foundered on its final day over what are known as the Singapore issues—cross-border investment, competition policies, trade facilitation and government procurement.

Developing countries oppose the issues, fearing in particular that a new international investment regime would benefit multilateral corporations at the expense of their own industries.

The European Union and Japan had urged a prompt start to talks on the Singapore issues.

The conference was also riven by deep divisions on agriculture, with developing countries clamoring for an end to trade-distorting subsidies offered to farmers in rich countries.

The EU agreed that export subsidies on certain products deemed critical by developing countries could be removed but balked at the elimination of all such assistance by a specific date.

The United States went along with demands for an end to export subsidies but sought concessions in return.

Poor states complained that trade laws were already rigged against them and they could not contemplate new ones that would be expensive and difficult to implement.

But one frustrated EU delegate said the issue was simple. "It's about fighting red tape and it's also about corruption," he said.

Officials said they would meet in Geneva once the dust had settled to see whether the talks could be revived.

Gloomy outlook

But with US elections looming in November 2004 and the EU preoccupied by the admission of 10 new members next year, the outlook looks gloomy.

Delighted antiglobalization activists who oppose trade deals sang "Money can't buy the world" to the tune of the Beatles classic "Can't buy me love" and held up banners reading "We won."

Not everyone agreed.

Sekou Oumar Tall, an agricultural business leader in Mali, said: "We in Africa have lost but the powerful countries have lost too. It is a shame for everyone." *Reuters, AFP*

'No deal is better than a bad deal'

From page A1

movements, labor unions, political parties and nongovernment organizations and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"We congratulate our government for somehow listening to the concerns of our small farmers," said Riza Bernabe of the the Philippine Peasant Institute.

PCCI president Sergio Ortiz-Luis said it was "better to have the talks bogged down than for the Philippines to have agreed to commitments that could be detrimental to local business."

Walden Bello, a member of the SNR contingent to Cancun, said the negotiations crumbled under the weight of the developing countries' unprecedented solidarity in opposing further liberalization in agriculture without commitments from developed countries to reduce massive subsidies that are making it impossible for poor farmers to compete in the market.

Twenty countries, including the Philippines, have demanded that the United States and the European Union bring down barriers to food imports.

"The US and the EU are not used to the unprecedented unity of the developing countries in the trade talks," Bello said in an overseas teleconference with the media. "The intransigence of the US and the EU, because of their greed, caused the collapse of the talks."

In a statement, the SNR said the collapse "was a defeat for the United States, the European Union, other developed countries—and all the corporate interests that they represented."

Singapore issues

The negotiations zeroed on three areas—agriculture, industrial products and the "Singapore issues" namely investment policy, competition policy, government procurement and trade facilitation—but it was the latter issue (which was being pushed by the European Union, Japan and Korea) that proved to be the biggest stumbling block to the signing of a new global, free trade deal.

Roxas said that had the "Singapore issues" been approved, the Philippines would have faced the prospect of opening up not only its markets but also its property and services sectors to foreign investors.

"Our position by tradition on these matters is to subject them to national sovereignty and not surrender them to a third party," Roxas said.

He said most members were against including these issues brought up first in the Singapore ministerial meeting because the WTO has a more rigid system of compelling members to comply with its rules compared with the United Nations or the International Court of Justice.

But while no deal was reached on the more pressing agriculture issues such as slashing duties and reducing subsidies of developed countries, Roxas said the Philippines managed to gain "some headway" in its talks with its partners to increase the access of Philippine fruits and vegetables export.

"We were able to force the US and the EU to acknowledge the need to reduce their export subsidies granted to their respective farm sectors," Roxas said. "We might not have reached any formal agreement yet, but we think it's now just a question of balancing, percentages and time periods."

No deal will also mean that the Philippines can keep its tariff barriers at current levels and continue protecting its local industries for a longer period until a new trade accord is reached. "We want a defensive stand and the breakdown works in our favor," Roxas said.

Lorenzo said that in the wake of subsidy-caused trade distortions, poor countries must be provided with adequate protection from conditions that prevent farmers of poor countries from competing even in their domestic markets.

"This is why we see no reason for stalling our requests for special products flexibilities for commodities such as rice, corn, sugar, vegetables," Lorenzo said.

Agriculture Assistant Secretary Segfredo Serrano said "developing countries have realized their hidden strength and resolve that they have what it takes to be on equal footing with the United States and the European Union as long as we stick together."

"This is the first time that a group of developing countries was able to have this influence in the WTO. The developed countries did not expect we would be this strong," said the Philippine assistant WTO negotiator for agriculture issues.

Not the weakest link

Serrano noted that it was true that some G-20 members from Latin America had given in to some of the proposals of the United States and the EU, "but the Philippines has kept its resolve until the end."

"It is not true that the Philippines was the weakest link in the trade talks," he said.

In a statement, former Sen. Wigberto Tañada, lead convenor of the Fair Trade Alliance (FTA), said the collapse should provide the government with a much needed opportunity to correct what he called "too high and too fast" reduction of the country's tariff barriers.

Tañada said the government should now shoot down its MFN (most-favored nation) accelerated tariff reduction program by recalling Executive Order No. 334, which seeks to bring down tariffs on imported products to between zero and 5 percent by 2004.

Initial victory

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas called the collapse of the WTO negotiations an "initial" victory.

"Once again, the world's people and struggle prevailed over the malevolent intent of the United States and European Union to further plunder Third World countries' agriculture and economy," said KMP secretary general Danilo Ramos.

Ramos said "farmers' protests in all parts of the world became a major force that led to the collapse of the Cancun talks."

Sanlakas Rep. JV Bautista said it was a good thing that President Macapagal-Arroyo was preoccupied with domestic problems.

"Otherwise, she could have instructed the secretaries to give in to US pressures . . . especially in light of the forthcoming visit of Bush in October," Bautista said.

Philippine representatives have taken the "No deal is better than a bad deal" position, the same stance of civil society groups and other countries like Malaysia and Indonesia. *With reports from Christine Gaylican and Michelle V. Remo and Martin P. Marfil*

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Lipa bishop replaces Sin

From page A1

news a few minutes before midnight on Sunday from the NOMM, which requested a news embargo until after the Vatican announcement.

In announcing the news, Franco said that "the Holy Father expressed his deep gratitude for [Sin's] unconditional dedication and love for the people entrusted to his care, first in Jaro [in Iloilo] and then in Manila, for his great affection and devotion to the Successor of Peter, for his constant affirmation of Christian values in social life, and for his untiring action in defense of the common good."

In a statement dated Sept. 14 but circulated yesterday, Sin, who turned 75 last Aug. 31, gave thanks to God for the Pope's acceptance of his resignation, which he said follows the prevailing norms of the Church.

"Like the prophet Simeon, I can now exclaim, 'Now you can let your servant go in peace. Your Word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation that you have prepared for your people,'" he said.

"As I enter a new chapter in my twilight years, I can say with gratitude that I have given my very best to God and country. I beg pardon (from) those I might have led astray or hurt... Please remember me kindly. I commend myself to your prayers and to the mercy of God," Sin added.

To his flock, he said: "Please love, respect and obey Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales even more than you have done for me. He deserves your utmost love and esteem."

In Malacañang, Presidential Spokesperson Ignacio Bunye praised Sin. "He is a true shepherd of his flock. He led the people through... the most difficult periods of our history."

Preeminent diocese

The new spiritual leader of the preeminent Catholic district in Asia left for Rome last Friday, on an ad limina visit (the once-every-five-years trip to the Vatican that is required of bishops).

Asked on Thursday about rumors that he was the next Archbishop of Manila, Rosales merely smiled and said: "That's not true. But we'll see."

Yesterday's announcement caught many in Lipa by surprise, but only temporarily.

Msgr. Alberto Boongaling said it was Rosales' achievements that caused the Vatican to choose him as head of the archdiocese of Manila, and hence the most likely candidate to be the country's next cardinal.

"He is a holy person and can unite the presbyterium of Manila," said Carlo Ilagan, rector of the Shrine of Caysasay in Taal town.

Nonie Dolor, a priest in Lipa, said Rosales was the papal nuncio's choice.

"Aside from being the nuncio's choice, he is also popular [among] the Manila clergy," Dolor said.

But a nun from the Lipa Chancery, Rhea Villacarlos, said the people of Lipa would rather have Rosales remain as archbishop.

"We don't want to lose him here. He has created so much difference and led all of us to work our best and achieve the best achievement we could do. That is helping the people help themselves," the nun said.

Capalla, reached in Iligan City, said he welcomed Rosales' appointment because "he is a very prayerful person and he loves the priests very much, being the chairman of the CBCP commission on the clergy."

"Not only that," Capalla added. "He had been in Mindanao for many, many years... and he knows the Mindanao situation very [well], which is also the concern of the whole country."

On a personal note, Capalla said he was "very happy" about the appointment because "we belong to the same fraternity of priests... called Jesu Caritas, and we meet every month in different groups in the country."

He said that while Rosales was still in Malaybalay and he was still based in Iligan, their monthly meetings were "our source of inspiration and renewal."

Environmental advocate

Rosales has a reputation for being holy, a friend of priests and a seasoned fighter against corruption and environment violators.

Two years ago, he led the residents of Sta. Rita Kalsada in Batangas City in their fight to stop the installation of high-tension wires in a residential area.

Rosales was a dominant figure in meetings and forums for environmental protection held in different parts of the province.

Born in Batangas City in 1932, into the affluent Rosales and Borbon families, he entered the San Jose Minor Seminary in Manila at age 15. He was ordained a priest in 1958, in Lipa City.

From 1970-1972, he was the parish priest of San Vicente in Banay-banay, Lipa City.

From there, he was assigned as parish priest of the Immaculate Conception in Batangas City.

In 1974, he was named auxiliary bishop of Manila. He was national director of the Pontifical Mission Aid Societies in 1975 and was the Asian delegate to Propaganda Fide in Rome in 1977.

He was rector of San Carlos Seminary in Makati City in 1980.

He became the bishop of Malaybalay in 1984. He led his clergy in the fight against illegal loggers in the province, and was awarded the Priest Guard Forest award for his leadership in the fight in 1991.

He then became a permanent member to the Council of the CBCP for the Mindanao Region.

Rosales was the CBCP delegate to the VIII Synod of Bishops in Vatican in 1990.

He was installed as archbishop of Lipa in 1993, and in 1997 was elected vice president of the CBCP.

In 2001, Rosales was named CBCP delegate to the Synod of Bishops in the Vatican. *With a report from AFP; PDI Research*

Fil-Am trader: Lacson rich enough...

From page A1

FILIPINO-AMERICAN businesswoman shows pictures of houses which she claims belong to Sen. Panfilo Lacson. These, she said, are proof that the senator has enough assets to pay the damages awarded to her by a US court.

JESS YUSON

In a press conference in Manila, Blanquita Pelaez presented as evidence Lacson's Statement of Assets and Liabilities which showed that his net worth rose from P2,835,000 in 1995 to P23,585,874 in 2002.

Pelaez also showed pictures of three houses in the posh Ayala-Alabang Village in Muntinlupa City and the BF Homes subdivisions in Parañaque and Las Piñas cities. She said the pictures were given to her by a friend but she had no proof that Lacson actually owned them.

Lacson's political adviser, Lito Banayo, denied as "fabricated and recycled" the evidence provided by the handcuffs supplier.

"Nothing new, these are the same documents and pictures presented by his political enemies in their desperate move to pin down Senator Lacson in the past, but they failed and they will fail again," Banayo said.

Pelaez said Lacson, who was then PNP chief, did not pay her for the shipment of 41,297 pairs of handcuffs from Smith and Wesson because she refused to take part in his alleged scheme to frame up several top-ranking officials, including Sen. Robert Barbers.

The businesswoman filed a damage suit against Lacson before a court in California.

On Jan. 10, Judge Julie Conger of the US Superior Court of Oakland ordered Lacson to pay the complainant $3,031,262, plus interest, after the senator failed to appear or present his side despite repeated court notices, Pelaez said.

Oct. 23 hearing

But another judge, James Richman, set aside the ruling on Aug. 19 because it was not judicially determined that Lacson could pay such a large amount, Pelaez said. But she pointed out that Richman ruled that Lacson should still pay her.

Conger scheduled a prove-up hearing on Oct. 23 to determine the amount, she said. If Lacson fails again to appear after the hearing to air his side, the court would issue an arrest warrant against him, she added.

To prove that Lacson has enough money to pay her, Pelaez said she had gathered evidence of the senator's wealth in the country and these would be submitted before the US court.

Aside from presenting Lacson's SAL, Pelaez disclosed that the court already had in its possession bank documents showing that the senator and his wife Alice had more than $200,000 in Bank of America accounts.

She said Alice had a BA account in 2001 that had $110,000, while Lacson had two BA accounts in 1996 that had a total of $104,793.26.

Pelaez said her American lawyer, Rodel Rodis, would later come to Manila and petition local authorities to allow the US court to assume jurisdiction over Lacson's property.

Lacson's house

One of the houses in the pictures presented by Pelaez in the press conference was at 25 Kirishima St., BF Homes Parañaque, Lacson's address in his SAL. The other houses were at 280 El Grande St., also in BF Homes, and at Lot 17 Block 10 San Jose St. Ayala-Alabang.

In his statement, the senator's aide Banayo said Lacson owned the house on a 416-square-meter lot on Kirishima Street. It was built in 1992 at a cost of P750,000, he said, and now has a market value of P6 million to P7 million.

Banayo dismissed as an "outright lie" Pelaez's claim that Lacson had another house in the subdivision.

He said the complainant was a "disgruntled businesswoman who has not succeeded in persuading Senator Lacson to approve payment of a highly questionable contract ordered by his predecessor as a PNP chief." He was referring to the handcuffs deal Pelaez clinched with then PNP Chief Recaredo Sarmiento.

Banayo accused the Macapagal administration of using Pelaez to discredit Lacson and cover up the opposition senator's exposé against First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo. Lacson's camp alleged that Pelaez's news conference was arranged by the media handlers of the First Gentleman.

Pelaez denied that she was going after Lacson due to his accusations against the First Gentleman. "This has nothing to do with that. Nobody can use me. Not even my ex-husband. I don't sell myself. I'm not for sale," she said.

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Makati bank robbers still not charged

MAKATI City policemen have yet to file charges against the armed suspects who stormed the Citibank Center in the heart of the Central Business District three weeks ago.

According to SPO4 Dioscoro Asinas Jr. of the theft and robbery section, Citibank officials have not given the police the exact amount lost during the robbery.

Citibank has only reported a ballpark figure of "more or less P10 million," Asinas said.

"We need an exact figure to file the charges," said Asinas, visibly annoyed.

He added that they cannot just rely on "mere estimates" for the charges they will be filing against the suspects are serious.

The police have identified and are now hunting down the suspected bank robbers: Rodolfo Leyte, Rodolfo Amistoso, Eli Roman Perez and Randell Llanos.

Margaux Ortiz

Asistio clan plays down death of kin

THEY only want the case of his death to be laid to rest.

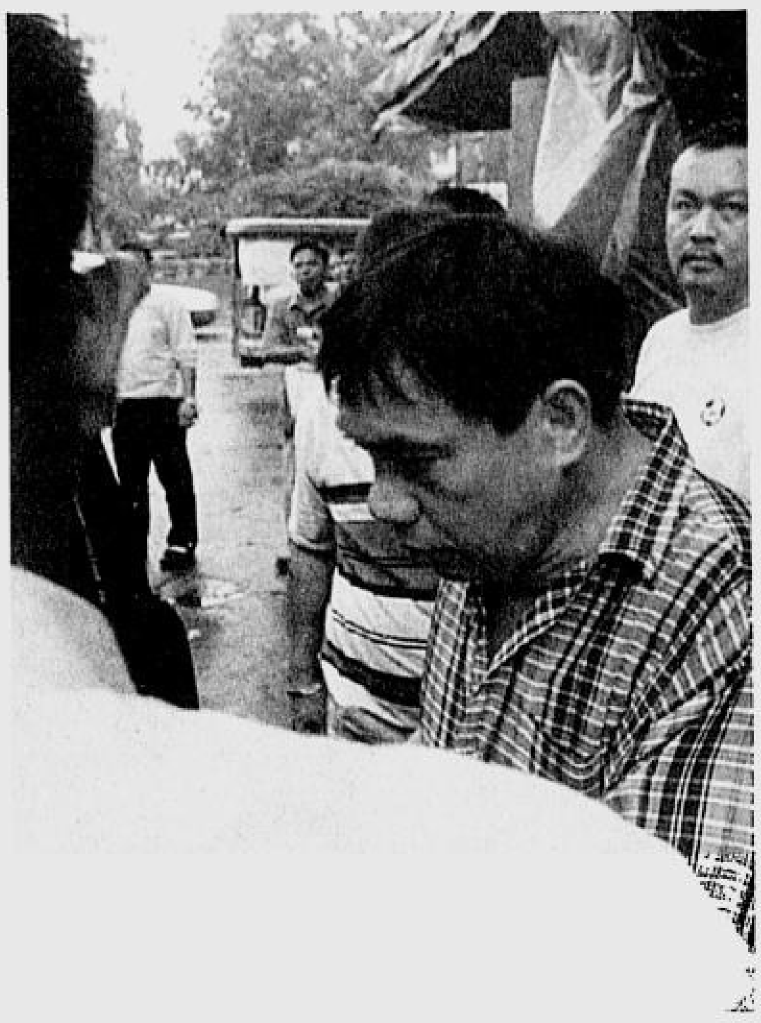
The family of Joseph Asistio, who was shot dead on Sunday in an encounter with members of the Western Police District's Mobile Division, said that they would not seek further investigation of the case.

"We asked bystanders and vendors who saw the incident and their statements were consistent with the police report," Joel Asistio, Joseph's older brother, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Joel and his family lit candles and held a vigil at the corner of A. Mabini and Pedro Gil Streets, where his brother Joseph was killed.

Asistio's father, Delio, is a cousin of former Caloocan Mayor Macario "Boy" Asistio, and former Caloocan Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio.

SP02 Virgo Villareal of the WPD Homicide Division said Asistio drew his .45-caliber pistol and fired on the officers, after he refused to yield to a routine check in Manila at dawn Sunday. Tarra Quismundo



NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation agents have taken in for questioning Chief Insp. Edgar Alintog, head of the Drug Enforcement Unit of Western Police District Station 3. The police official has been accused of extortion. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

NBI men detain WPD official for extortion

By Leila Salaverria

A RANKING official of the Western Police District has been accused of extortion when he allegedly demanded and received P10,000 for the release of a suspected drug offender.

Chief Insp. Edgar Alintog, head of the Drug Enforcement Unit of WPD Station 3, yesterday was taken to the National Bureau of Investigation office for questioning after an entrapment operation right inside station 3.

NBI investigator Rosauro Bautista said that the bureau still has to determine whether Alintog is liable for extortion. He said the bureau would have to test Alintog's hands for flourescent powder, which had been sprinkled on the marked money.

Enriquieta Nalayog, 67, a coal vendor and resident of Sta. Teresita, Manila, yesterday told reporters that Alintog had demanded money from her in exchange for the release of her son, Jaime Caniete, 47.

Police arrested Caniete on Saturday even after they failed to find illegal drugs on him, Nalayog claimed. After a few hours, Nalayog said she received a call from a policeman who asked money for her son's release.

She then borrowed P10,000 from an Indian trader and went to the police. She said the policeman she talked to turned down the money.

"*Ikaw matanda ka, aanhin namin yang*P10,000 (You old woman, what would we do with P10,000)?" she quoted the unidentified officer as saying.

She claimed the policeman was one of Alintog's aides.

On Sunday, she said she received another call asking her to bring more money.

She said she went to meet Alintog on Sunday at 11 p.m. near a barangay hall and offered the P35,000 she had raised earlier. Nalayog claimed Alintog rejected the amount because he wanted P140,000. She told reporters that Alintog promised to let her son escape once she had produced the money.

At this point, Nalayog said, she sought the help of a radio reporter who referred her to the NBI-NCR Division.

The NBI-NCR coordinated with the WPD to set a trap. Yesterday, Nalayog went to Alintog with P10,000 in marked money.

Nalayog said that after Alintog had received the envelope, he allegedly put it down immediately. She said he appeared suspicious.

Alintog allegedly then told his aides to handcuff Nalayog for asking for help from other authorities and bringing the marked money. He then proceeded to wash his hands with alcohol and told his aides to do the same, the woman said.

Nalayog added that when she failed to come out of Alintog's office, NBI agents barged into the station and took in the police officer.

At press time yesterday, Alintog was being questioned by NBI agents and could not be reached for comment.

Month-long alert for 8-hour visit

By Tina Santos

US PRESIDENT George Bush's visit to the country is still a month away, but the police have been placed on high alert this early to prevent terrorist attacks before and during the state visit.

National Capital Region Police Office chief Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco said that security measures are already in place for Bush's eight-hour stay in the Philippines on Oct. 18.

"We are conducting preemptive and preventive strikes in view of the renewed threats of terrorist attacks," Velasco said.

He added policemen have secured establishments near Malacañang.

He said bomb-sniffing dogs regularly make the rounds of Malacañang and other vital installations in Metro Manila.

He also said additional policemen will be deployed in Metro Manila during the visit—Bush's first to Asia since he became president three years ago.

The NCRPO chief added that Philippine National Police officials have linked up with members of Bush's advance party to coordinate security arrangements.

Pedestrian kills driver who hit him

By Alcuin Papa

RENATO Serohijos-Balaga on Sunday made the fatal mistake of getting off his van to check on the man he accidentally hit on a service road in Parañaque City.

Police said Renato, 37, was driving his Kia Besta van (URY 938) when he accidentally hit one of two men who were then crossing the West Service Road of the South Superhighway in Barangay Melville, Parañaque at around 9:30 p.m.

When Renato stopped the vehicle and got down to check, one of the men drew a .45-caliber pistol and shot Renato, hitting him in the chest and back, police said.

Before they tried to escape, the two men proceeded to the van and opened fire, injuring Renato's sister Joy, 18, and another relative, Buenvenido, 59, police said.

Responding policemen managed to collar one of the suspects, Eugene Aguilar, 25, of Barangay Toro-Toro, San Miguel, Bulacan.

Police said the other suspect managed to escape.

Joy and Buenvenido are now being treated at the Ospital ng Makati, police said.

METROBRIEFS

Not a centavo lost

ROBBERS had hit a bank in Pasig City and left empty-handed. Police officials yesterday said a man called the security agency of the Batangas-Manila-Subic Bank on C. Raymundo Avenue, Pasig City at around 1 a.m. on Wednesday and reported that he saw six men get down from a tricycle and force the bank's gate open. Policemen got to the bank at 2:20 a.m. The robbers had by then escaped. Bank manager Rosana Malavega told police that the robbers did not take anything of value from the bank. *Luige del Puerto*

Donations stolen

THIEVES broke into a church in Muntinlupa City and took all its cash donations. PO2 Felix Paor of the Muntinlupa Police said the theft at the Mary Mother of God Parochial Church on the National Road, Barangay Bayanan, was discovered at 4:45 a.m. yesterday by Virgilio Lumagay, church caretaker. *Alcuin Papa.*

Memory loss

EDWARD Larreza yesterday woke up at the Marikina City jail not knowing what he was in for. But the police were kind enough to remind Larreza of the crime he was supposed to have committed Sunday night. Police said Larreza went to the "Ihaw Ihaw sa Tent City" on Ipil Street and left the place a while later without paying the bill. Restaurant owner Isabelita Magbanua, told police that when she asked Larreza to pay up, the suspect allegedly showed her his knife and said, "can you not spare me from paying this time?" Larreza was hauled to jail after an unidentified man grabbed the knife from the suspect. *Luige del Puerto*

10 years for P400

FOR ROBBING a taxi driver of P400, Nicanor Rivas has been sentenced to a prison term of up to ten years and required to pay damages amounting to P50,000. Manila Judge Socorro Inting found Rivas guilty of robbing driver Leonardo Talampas in November 2000. But Rivas' companions, including his brother Floro, 23, Randy Tanacio, 28, and a minor, were acquitted after the prosecution failed to show evidence that they were involved in the robbery. *Tarra Quismundo*

A self-serving pamphlet

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE CAMP of Sen. Panfilo Lacson is using some items I've written in this column praising the "good" senator. Lacson's men have compiled the items I wrote in praise of Ping Lacson in a pamphlet.

"What INQUIRER Columnist Ramon Tulfo says about Sen. Panfilo M. Lacson and the Kuratong Baleleng issue." That's the title of the pamphlet.

On the pamphlet's cover is a quote from "On Target" dated May 27, 1999. It says: "Lacson may be a son of a gun, but he is the government's son of a gun… When Lacson errs, he errs on the side of righteousness. We saw this in the Kuratong Baleleng scandal when he got involved in the rubout of suspected bank robbers… If Lacson is a bit cocky, it's because he has a spotlessly clean record insofar as graft and corruption is concerned."

* * *

Let's take a look at the inside pages of the self-serving pamphlet—self-serving to the senator, of course.

Oct. 5, 1995: "A mini survey conducted by 'Action 9' among its listeners showed that the citizenry want police generals Jewel Canson, Panfilo Lacson and Romeo Acop given back powers to go after syndicated crimes. The three generals are in the 'freezer' after they were implicated in the alleged liquidation of a group of bank robbers."

Nov. 25, 1995: "Granting those 11 notorious bank robbers were killed gangland style by the accused cops (Lacson, et. al) why would they be charged with murder which is punishable by death?… Why not a lesser offense?… If the cops really erred, it was on the side of good; in short, they were overzealous. Cops who are zealous or dedicated to their job will now think twice before going against criminals."

Dec. 7, 1995: "I hate to bring this out again and again, but the Kuratong Baleleng furor which caused the sacking of three very efficient police generals (Canson, Acop and Lacson) has demoralized the PNP and boosted the morale of criminals. That's why kidnappings and bank robberies continue unabated. You read about such incidents in the newspapers everyday… When the police have low morale, they naturally don't do their job efficiently. And the criminals are having a feast."

April 10, 1997: "If I were Director General Recaredo Sarmiento II, PNP chief, I would immediately accept the offer of Chief Supt. Panfilo Lacson to go after kidnap gangs… Lacson's services are needed at this time when kidnap gangs seem to be operating with impunity. Lacson and 24 other PNP officers and men, including two other chief superintendents and a senior superintendent, have been idle since they were implicated in the liquidation of several bank robbery suspects two years ago… Before he was grounded, Lacson was chief of Task Force Habagat of the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission, which did a splendid job of going after kidnap-for-ransom gangs."

May 27, 1999: "The claim of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (Nica) that PNP chief Lastimoso and Director Panfilo Lacson are coddlers of rival drug syndicates is utterly unbelievable… Now the shoe is on the other foot: Lacson is being accused of a crime that he is imputing to Lastimoso… I can never believe the Nica report about Lacson even if I'm siding with Lastimoso."

Nov. 20, 1999: "If you want Panfilo Lacson to succeed in his vow to stamp out criminals, we should rejoice because he and his men are doing their job."

* * *

I should give Lacson's boys an "A" rating for compiling all those items in one pamphlet. Actually, there were more items they failed to include, some of them when Lacson was already PNP chief.

Yes, sir, I was praising Lacson to high heavens when he was with the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission (PACC). I was praising him to high heavens when he was PNP chief and concurrent chief of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF).

Those praises came direct from my heart since I don't easily praise people in this space. I'm one guy who's not easily impressed.

* * *

But those encomiums were made before I learned that he was behind the abduction-murder of publicist Bubby Dacer and his driver, Emmanuel Corbito.

That was before I learned about the murders of innocent civilians through the confessions of former Lacson henchman Francisco "Kit" Mateo who was dying of cancer.

That was before I learned that behind every rescue of a Chinese kidnapping victim, there were three other victims who were kidnapped by Lacson's henchmen. That was before I learned that Lacson dipped his hands in the illegal drug trade.

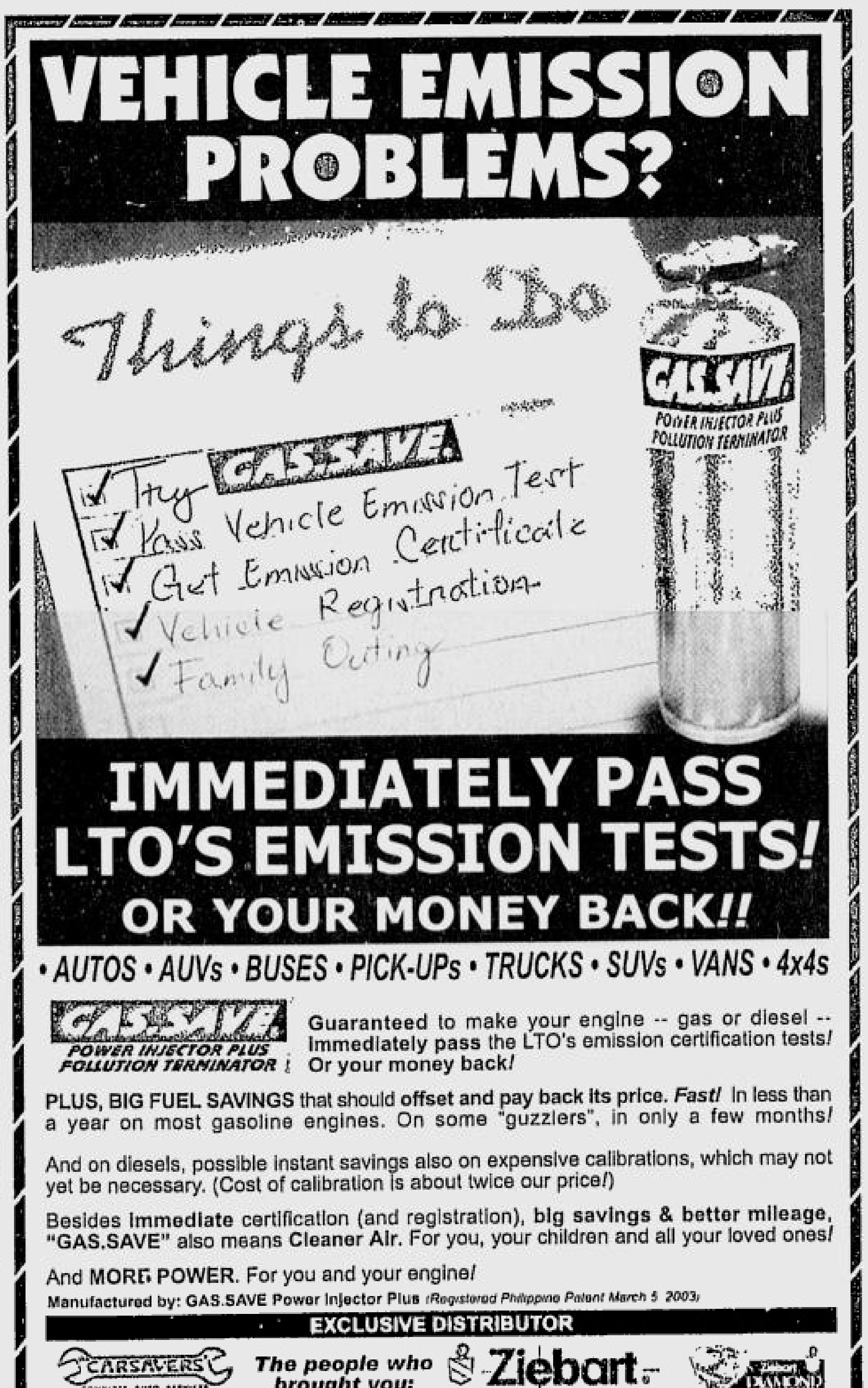
And especially, that was before I learned that Lacson and his cohorts executed those 11 suspected bank robbers so the "salvaged" victims would not be able to talk about the US$2-million loot that was confiscated from them and never declared by Lacson and company.

* * *

I learned about Lacson's bad side when he was already out of the police service and running for the Senate.

Perhaps it was my good fortune that I learned about his shenanigans when he was already out of the PNP and his group of killers within the PNP had already been dispersed.

Otherwise, I would not be here writing this column.



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Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

Rob story raises GMA's eyebrows

Reiterates nightspot ban for lawmen

By Christian V. Esguerra

TRUE or not, news that a group of police officers were robbed while enjoying themselves inside a classy nightspot in Quezon City has prompted President Macapagal-Arroyo to remind policemen that they should not go to such places.

The President expressed alarm over the alleged incident and the fact that policemen were frequenting nightspots.

"It is already bad for the the police image that a high-profile nightclub is robbed," she told police officials at Camp Crame yesterday.

"It is worse that this places are being tagged as a hangout of police officials."

The President said that the presence of policemen in these places indicated that they might be providing protection to these establishments.

"Police officers must serve as models not only for others in the organization but also in the community they serve," she said in her speech.

While maintaining that the incident was a "simple robbery," Metro Manila police chief Reynaldo Velasco directed all district chiefs to stay away from nightclubs and similar establishments.

Commenting on the newspaper report that a group of policemen were robbed by members of the Kuratong Baleleng while inside the Classmates nightclub, Velasco said it was blown out of proportion.

Citing a report from the Central Police District, Velasco said no ranking police officers were robbed by alleged ex-Kuratong Baleleng gang members at the high-profile club.

"It was just a case of one of the GROs (guest relations officers) who was going out at 5 a.m. and being held up," he told reporters.

"So there is no truth to the report that the perpetrators went inside."

Velasco said that the petty incident happened a month ago on Aug. 31 and not the other morning as earlier reported.

Nonetheless, he said, "Members of the Metro Manila police force are prohibited from going to nightclubs especially if they are in uniform and while on duty, unless in conduct of a legitimate police operation."

Velasco added, "They would have to face the consequences once they violate it."

"Self-discipline should be exercised by members of the police force to regain the trust and respect of the people. Policemen should serve as role models, not only for others in the organization but also for the community they serve," the NCRPO chief said as he stressed that he himself doesn't visit nightclubs.

Meanwhile, Philippine National Police chief Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. clarified that there is a standing policy that covers this issue.

"We'll have a reminder to all units and we'll hold all the unit commanders responsible in the implementation."

The PNP came up with the policy after the President herself found lewd VCDs during a surprise inspection of a CPD station last July during a surprise visit in Camp Panopio in Quezon City.

BRIGHT FUTURE
Children, in native Filipino costumes, smile for the camera after performing the seagull dance at a trade fair at the Intramuros in Manila. The trade fair was organized by local businessmen to showcase Philippine food and handicraft. EPA/ MIKE ALQUINTO

MMDA ups fines on Edsa

By Margaux Ortiz

WATCH where you drive on Edsa starting today or pay the price.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) chair Bayani Fernando announced yesterday that stricter measures and higher fines would be imposed on traffic violators on the main thoroughfare.

The moves are in preparation for the full implementation of the single dispatch scheme or Organized Edsa Bus Route.

Fernando warned private motorists and drivers of public utility vehicles to strictly observe the yellow lane rule.

Motorists venturing outside their designated lanes would be heavily fined, the MMDA chair said.

The penalty for private motorists who will drive inside the yellow lane has been raised from P300 to P500.

"Only ambulances, patrol cars and fire trucks are exempted," Fernando emphasized.

On the other hand, PUVs caught outside the yellow lane will be impounded for one week.

The vehicle of second-time violators will be impounded for one month.

An additional one month suspension will face hard-headed drivers, Fernando stressed.

The MMDA chair also reminded bus drivers not to lose their dispatch or queue cards.

He said new cards would be issued at different merging points and should be surrendered when they reach the terminals.

Provincial buses will no longer be allowed to load and unload along the major thoroughfare.

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Suspects loiter near crime scene, nabbed

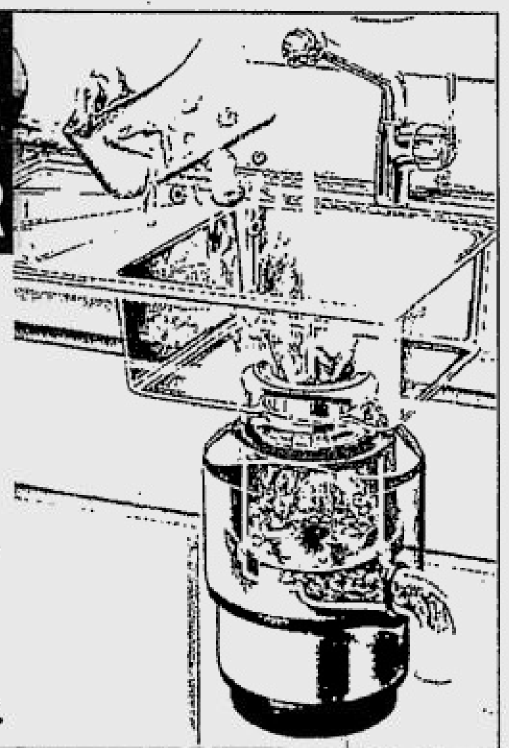
By Leila B. Salaverria

TWO ROBBERY suspects who reportedly decided to loiter near the crime scene were collared by policemen hours after the heist.

P02 Gary June Gading of the Western Police District identified the arrested suspects as Edcel Orbita, 38, and Dionisio Santos, 35, both of Solis Street, Tondo.

Gading said the two were spotted by WPD operatives while smoking outside their parked getaway car, a white Nissan Sentra with a "City Security Force" license plate, hours after allegedly robbing two units at the Resadel Building along Jose Abad Santos Street.

Two alleged cohorts who helped take some P1 million from the units of Juvy Chen, 27, and Jaime Go, 37, remain at large.



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Organizers of Meteor concert hit

By Luige del Puerto

THE CONCERT featuring stars of ABS-CBN's "Meteor Garden" chinovela became chaotic because event organizers scrimped on security, the police said.

The INQUIRER gathered that only 50 policemen and some 200 volunteers were deployed to control 40,000 raving fans inside the Philsports (formerly Ultra) Football Field in Pasig City on Saturday night.

According to Pasig City police chief Senior Supt. Ernesto Catungal, the organizers initially only requested 20 lawmen.

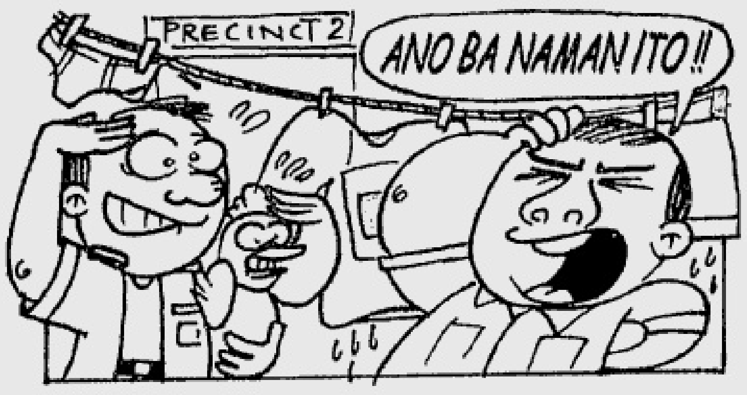
Concert planners only decided to ask for more assistance after the police reportedly insisted that 20 lawmen were "too few."

But even the 50 policemen sent to help enforce order in the venue proved insignificant.

"People were really crazy about these stars, and we could not keep them from invading the other areas of the stadium," Catungal said.

As a result, thousands of spectators who held P500 tickets invaded the area reserved for P5,000-ticket holders. Eight people were also reportedly hurt in a stampede.

But while there was chaos and even petty theft inside the venue, the police were in full control outside.



Lawmen feel at home at QC detachment

By Margaux Ortiz

ONLY in the Philippines.

This was how an irritated Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chair Bayani Fernando described yesterday a police detachment at the Balintawak Clover Leaf in Quezon City.

Fernando, who brought a busload of reporters to the site, said the Central Police District Station 1 Police Community Precinct 2 embodied everything that was illegal.

The detachment is situated in the middle of one of the loops of the interchange.

Unidentified persons have built a house and a convenience store outside the detachment by adding a roof on one of the station's walls.

"*Kakatuwa talaga, may sampayan pa at kulungan ng manok* (There's even a clothesline and a chicken coop)," Fernando said.

The MMDA chair told reporters that Balintawak was a major entry point for vehicles coming from North Luzon.

The area has been a major site for the MMDA's clearing operations directed against illegal vendors.

"What this police detachment unit now stands for is shameful and demoralizing," Fernando said.

The MMDA chair said he was coordinating with the proper authorities to demolish the police station and have it relocated with the vendors that are constantly removed from the area.

Fernando disclosed that he would talk to National Capital Regional Police Office chief Reynaldo Velasco to recommend the immediate relief of the station commander of the detachment.

"How could he have let this happen?" Fernando asked.

The MMDA chair added that he would prepare the necessary funds to turn the site into a terminal for public utility vehicles.

Alleged cop killer killed in gunplay

By Leila B. Salaverria

A MAN suspected of killing a policeman last month was gunned down in Manila Sunday as he was being brought to Caloocan City.

The police said Rodolfo C. Garcia, 57, was shot once on the head by P02 Rolly Carento of Station 7 of the Western Police District.

According to investigators, Garcia tried to grab the gun of one of his security escorts while they were inside a multicab (GMP 406) in Manila.

Investigation by SP02 Edison Bertoldo showed that Garcia was about to be brought to the sala of Caloocan City Judge Silverio Bello Jr., where he had warrants for two murder cases.

Bertoldo said that when Garcia and his escorts were along Limay Street corner Torres Bugallon Street at 11:15 a.m., he asked one of his escorts, SP01 John Lui of Station 7, to loosen his handcuffs that were allegedly too tight.

Suddenly, Garcia reportedly tried to grab Lui's service firearm.

As the two grappled for the gun, Carento shot the suspect in the head.

Garcia was arrested on Sept. 11 for the killing of SP03 Danilo Reyes on Aug. 23 in Tondo.

No witnesses came forward to identify Garcia so they decided to turn him over to the Caloocan RTC.

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AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL-Cowboys vs Giants; 9 a.m. (r-5 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.); ESPN-New Dallas head coach Bill Parcells goes up against the team he led to two Super Bowl titles, New York.

MOTOR SPORTS: F1 Race Day-Vodafone Italian Grand Prix; 10:30 a.m. (r); Star Sports-Catch the replay of this high speed chase on the race track.

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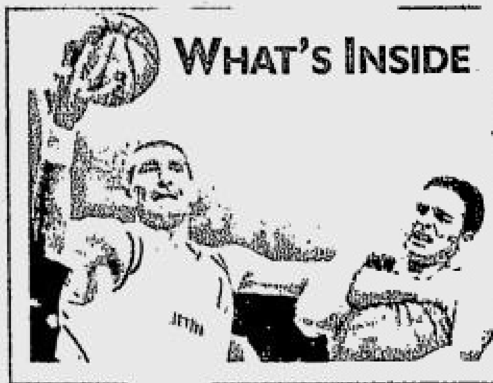


- Lithuania five trips Spain in final; Italy makes it /A21
- Adamson cagebelles rip Ateneo /A20

Qatar's world steeple champ arriving today

By Marc Anthony Reyes

15th Asian Athletics Championships

QATAR, led by world steeplechase champion Saif Saeed Shaheen, and powerhouse China hit town today hoping to put in more training time for the Asian Amateur Athletics championship set Sept. 20-23 at the Rizal Stadium.

Kazakhstan, bannered by three Asian champs, is also due today along with Kyrgystan.

Japan, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are planing in tomorrow with Sri Lanka, boasting of the region's top woman sprinter in Susanthika Jayasinghe, arriving on Thursday.

Shaheen is easily the biggest attraction in the 44-nation field following his steeplechase victory in the world championship in Paris last month.

And to prove that the win was no fluke, the former Kenyan ruled his favorite event in the world athletics final in Monaco just over the weekend.

Formerly known as Stephen Ceruno, Shaheen left Kenya to compete for Qatar lured by a $1,000-monthly incentive for life.

The steeplechase is also in the schedule of the country's long distance ace Eduardo "Vertek" Buenavista, but only if it won't conflict with his original campaign in the 5,000 and 10,000 meters.

Officials said Buenavista, a double gold medalist in the 2001 Malaysia SEAG, hopes to use the steeplechase only as a warm-up.

The champions in the Kazakhstan lineup are Gennadiy Chernovol (200 meters), Mikhail Kolganov (800m) and Tatyana Roslanova (400m).

The standouts in the China squad are hammer thrower Gu Yuan, 110-meter hurdler Liu Xian and javelin ace Li Rongxiang.

Jayasinghe won the 100 and 200 in last year's Asian championships held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and her presence is expected to bring back memories of Lydia de Vega, who used to dominate the sprints as top Filipino athlete in the '80s.

Kuwait's top medal hope is Fawzi Al-Shammari in the 400m while Saudi Arabia boasts of Salem M.M. Al-Yami in the century dash, Alsaba Hussain of Saudi Arabia in the long jump and Al Mowallad Salem in the triple jump.

Some 1,200 athletes and officials are expected to take part in this event the country last hosted 10 years ago.

SAIF Saeed Shaheen (right) in action during the world championships. AP

Baby Falcons nip UE Pages, catch Eaglets

JOMAR Canuday scattered 23 points but it was Gener Pandaan who made the big difference down the stretch with a booming triple as Adamson edged University of the East, 72-70, last Sunday in the UAAP junior basketball tournament at the Loyola Gym.

STANDINGS	W	L
Adamson	10	2
Ateneo	10	2
Adamson	10	2
DLS-Zobel	7	4
UE	6	5
UST	5	6
UPIS	2	9
NU	0	12

The win was the Baby Falcons' 10th in 12 games, moving them into a tie for the lead with the Ateneo Eaglets.

Ateneo, which lost to University of the East in last year's final, is the only team to have beaten Adamson in the tournament.

La Salle-Zobel's Bengals dealt the Ateneo Eaglets its second defeat, 66-58, at the Araneta Coliseum last Saturday.

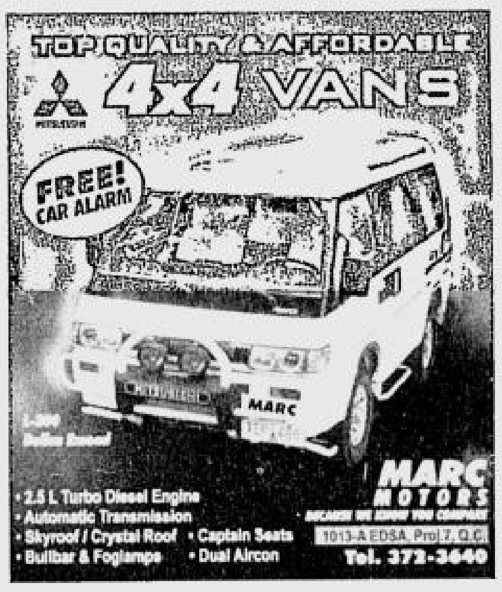
Ateneo, Adamson and La Salle-Zobel are already assured of Final Four seats. *Dennis Eroa*

Scores:

ADAMSON 72—Canuday 23, Johnston 13, Pandaan 9, Bautista 9, Balila 9, Racho 5, Edano 2, Amparado 2, Opelac 0, Espina 0.

UE 70—De la Cruz 20, Zamar 19, Prolaje 12, Tungcul 8, Sumalinog 7, Simbulan 4, Valero 0, Juliane 0.

Quarters: 18-16, 42-35, 60-52, 72-70.



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Manila SEAG budget down to ₱500M

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FROM P2 billion to P500 million.

The big slash in the projected budget for the country's hosting of the Southeast Asian Games in Manila on 2005 came after the organizing committee abandoned plans to build a new sports complex, Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayit announced yesterday.

With some ingenuity, Dayrit yesterday said staging the SEAG for only P500 million is doable.

Among the cost-saving measure is billeting the athletes according to their respective sports, a move Vietnam will introduce when it holds this year's SEAG in the cities of Ho Chi Minh and Hanoi in December.

Dayrit said that transportation expenses won't be as big since if, for example, taekwondo is held at the Cuneta Astrodome, the jins would be housed at a nearby hotel like the Hyatt.

Until Vietnam came up with the novel idea, all delegations in previous SEAG are housed in hotels and transporting the athletes to different venues has become a major problem for organizers.

A plan to build a new sports complex had swelled the budget to P2 billion but organizers eventually dropped it for lack of time, money and a suitable site.

This means the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex built before World War II will have to be refurbished anew to serve as major competition sites for the SEAG as in the country's hosting of the sportsfest in 1981 and 1991.

Dayrit said starting with the 2005 games, a minimum of 22 sports will be staged with the host country allowed to include no more than eight sports where it has strong chances to win gold medals.

Aside from athletics and aquatics, the SEAG roster will have a minimum of 14 Olympic and Asian Games sports.

Asi player of week, leads MVP race

TAULAVA: Dominant

TALK 'N Text center Asi Taulava continued to lead the race for the Most Valuable Player award this season.

Taulava boosted his cause by winning player of the week honors for Sept. 8-14 in the current Samsung Reinforced Conference.

Though Damien Cantrell proved himself worthy as the Phone Pals' reinforcement in the season-ending conference, Taulava still shone for the All-Filipino champs, who have won three straight since dropping their opener against Shell.

Against the 41 points Cantrell averaged for the week, Taulava's numbers paled in comparison. But look at Taulava's contributions.

Against FedEx, Taulava poured 11 of his 13 points in the second half. He also finished with 10 rebounds and four assists.

Against Alaska in Urdaneta, Pangasinan, Taulava was supposed to have a hard time against Ali Peek, Don Allado and EJ Feihl. Still, Taulava spread out 25 points and 10 rebounds.

``Asi was unbelievable. He was strong and dominant (against Alaska)," said import Cantrell. ``That's exactly how we need him to be."

And that's exactly how he was for the week.

And if the 6-foot-9 Taulava continues to dish out the same dominant performance, then an MVP award won't be far behind.

Immigration extends deadline on 'Fil-fors'

THE BUREAU of Immigration has extended for two more weeks its own deadline for starting deportation proceedings against eight Fil-foreign players in the Philippine Basketball Association.

Immigration executive director Roy Almoro said yesterday the Department of Justice has yet to revoke the confirmation papers of the "Fil-fors," leaving the BI no choice but to wait until the DOJ cancels the players' citizenship.

Immigration chief Andrea Domingo had formed a five-man task force headed by Almoro and gave the team 30 days to institute summary deportation on the Fil-fors after the Senate sent its decision to the BI on Aug. 12.

The deadline lapsed over the weekend but Almoro said Domingo was willing to wait until the DOJ okays the BI request. *June Navarro*

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Adamson cagebelles rip Ateneo

By Dennis U. Eroa

POWERHOUSE Adamson bounced back with a devastating 82-52 win over Ateneo even as four-time champion La Salle continued its determined Final Four drive with a surprising 71-66 victory over UP in the UAAP women's basketball tournament last Sunday at the Adamson Gym.

Veterans Minerva Narciza, Dorothy Torres and Marites Gadian, who will play for the national team in the coming SEA Games, finished in double figures as the Lady Falcons recorded their 10th win against a lone setback, inflicted by the Lady Archers last week.

Earlier, Aimee Mañosca hit 29 points as La Salle tripped second-running UP, 71-66, to improve its record to 6-5. The Lady Maroons dropped to 8-3.

Far Eastern spanked University of the East, 53-45, for its fourth win in 11 games. UE absorbed its 11th straight setback.

La Salle, Ateneo (6-5) and UST (5-6) are also chasing Final Four seats.

Regina Velarde, a member of last year's mythical team, backed up the hot-shooting Mañosca with 10 points, four rebounds and nine assists, while Kristine Prado grabbed a team-high 10 rebounds.

Scores:

First Game

FEU 53—Faustino 10, Ducusin 9, Abella 7, Madriano 7, Lebomo 7, Tan 7, Madriano J 6, Gonzales 0.

UE 45—Saberon 14, Hobayan 14, Ferto 8, Mabazza 6, Tan 2, Manzano 1, Villanueva 0.

Second Game

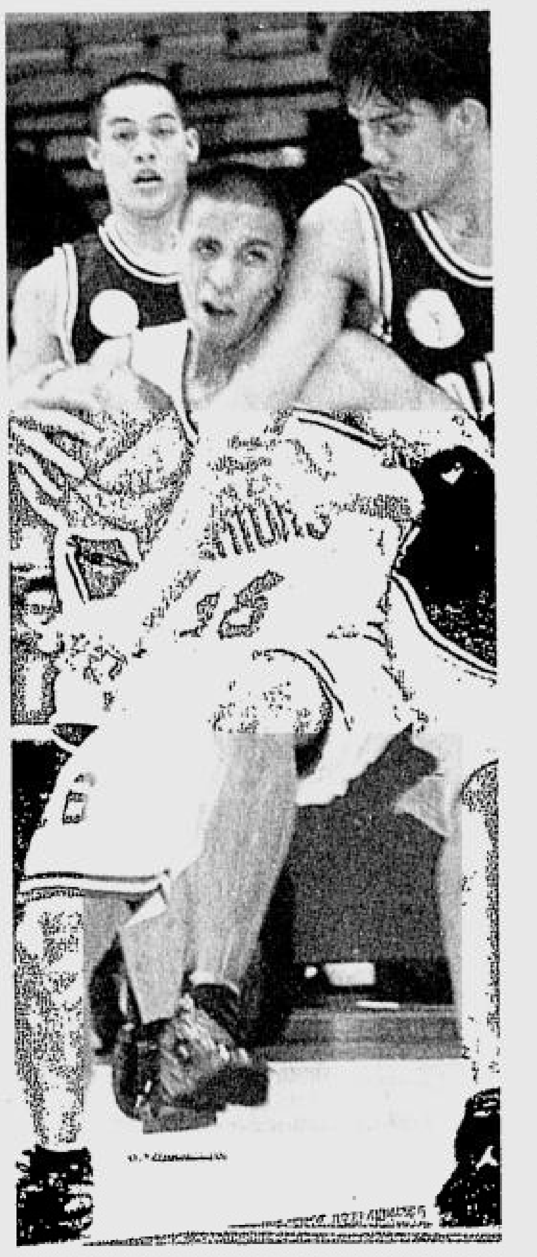
ADAMSON 82—Torres 20, Narciza 15, Arayi 13, Gadian 11, Yanez 10, Bombeo 6, Constantino 5, Ravago 2, Rieta 0.

ATENEO 52—Quimpo 18, Chua 10, Caynap 9, Tioseco 4, Tanchi 4, Dy 3, Vilanouva 2, Sy 1 La Rosa 1.

Third Game

LA SALLE 71—Mañosca 29, Velarde 10, Laureda 9, Alon-alon 6, Galan 6, Prado 5, Mitra 4, Que 2.

UP 66—Dowling 15, Asistion 14, Mendoza 13, Torres 12, Cruz 4, Marco 2, Valenzuela 0.



A DRIVING Paul Artadi of UE (left) is fouled by Adamson's Mark Abadia in their game last Sunday. The Warriors won, 82-76. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Qatari 5 tops Lhuillier, wrests lead

CEBU CITY—Qatar-Ricor Mills outsteadied M. Lhuillier Kwarta Padala-Cebu in the endgame to win, 70-67, Sunday and wrest the lead in the 2003 Trust Classic National Open basketball championship at the New Cebu City Coliseum.

Daoud Daoud sparked the Qataris' comeback in the last two minutes, but it was Yaseem Ismael Mahmoud, the 6-foot-8 "Dunker from Doha," who sealed the victory with a 3-point shot in the last 29 seconds, 70-65.

The Qataris, who ripped NBL Burlington, 104-70, in Friday's opener, now have a 2-0 card, while the Cebuanos dropped to 2-1.

Earlier, Chinese Taipei-Plantation Bay beat RP-Air21, 91-85, to match Lhuillier's record.

Scores:

First Game

CT-PLANTATION BAY 91—Yang Y M 14, Yen 13, Lin 12, Wu 10, Tien 8, Chen 7, Wu C W 7, Tang T Y 6, Wu C y 5, Ho 4, Cheh 2, Lee 2, Tseng 1, Hung 0

RP-AIR21 85—Te 24, Santos 14, Ilad 9, Reroma 8, Chua 8, Gabica 8, Borboran 6, Sumalinog 5, Evangelista 2, Baracel 1, Buen 0

Quarterscores: 31-26, 56-41, 70-66, 91-85

Second Game

QATAR-RICOR MILLS 70—Manhmoud 24, Abdulrahminal, Bsher 9, Daoud 6, Salem Abdula 5, Seleem Abdula 5, Mohammed 4, Al-Jabn, Abdi 0, Ali 0, Ismail 0

M. LHUILLER 67—Robinson 21, Laygo 17, Parks 15, Brown 10, Enriquez 2, Dacia 2, Rodriguez 0, Cantona 0, Lumantas 0, Reyes 0

Quarterscores: 21-12, 35-32, 49-48, 70-67

SPORTSWATCH

Lina leads cycling board

BUSINESSMAN-sportsman Bert Lina heads 10 others elected to the board of the national federation of cycling on Sunday. Lina, chair of Air21, which bankrolled the revival of the fabled Tour Pilipinas, towed "Team Lina" composed of back-to-back Tour champions Cornelio Padilla Jr. and Paquito Rivas, Arthur Cayabyab and Jun Lomibao to the 15-man board which will serve a term of four years. Also elected were Leo Magaway, Antonio Cruz, Fred Corda, Armando Bautista, Jose Ferrer, Carlos Gredonia, Armando Camiling and Col. (ret.) Romeo Modelo, who all ran under the unity ticket that included the Lina team, and independent candidates Alberto Garcia and Jojo Villa. Dato Seri G. Darshan Singh, the Malaysian president of the Asian Cycling Confederation witnessed the proceedings at the multi-purpose gym of the Amoranto Stadium in Quezon City.

Doña Carmen wins

DAVAO CITY—Doña Carmen National High dumped Elias Lopez National High, 6-0, last Saturday to lead inaugural winners in the Davao Coke Go-for-Goal under-16 football tournament at the Agro field here. Jessie Carlon and Adrian Alemania knocked in two goals each to spark the day's most lopsided triumph. In the other games, Ateneo de Davao High-A whipped Baguio National School of Arts and Trade, 4-1; host Agro Industrial nipped Rizal Memorial Colleges-A, 1-0 and Holy Child-Buhangin nipped Ateneo B, 2-1.

U-20 routs UP booters

THE PHILIPPINE Under-20 team of Nonoy Carpio routed University of the Philippines, 5-1, in the Ang Liga tournament recently at the UST pitch. With its stars sidelined by UP's academic requirements, coaches Bob Salvacion and Kleng Cacacho have to settle for a rookie-laden squad that were no match to the National's relentless attacks. The RP U-20 got their goals from Paolo Apacible (2), Lord-J (2) and Severino (1), the last three in the final 15 minutes when UP went all-out to try to score.

Cruz rules seniors golf

ROSENDO Cruz emerged overall champion of the seniors monthly tournament for September of the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite. Cruz posted a Double Peoria score of 65.7, finishing ahead of Dante Malabanan, who settled for the Group I title for players 55-59 years with his 67.5. The other division winners were Jerry Yoder with a 70.2 in Group II (60-64) and Antonio Castro with a 68.2 in Group III (65 up). The seniors monthly, played at the Norman-Aoki composite course, served as final warm-up for the senior players who will vie in the formal opening of the Norman course during the inaugural weekend of Eagle Ridge Golf this Saturday.

PBL Aspirants Camp

DEPUTY Commissioner Tommy Ong announced yesterday that the deadline for the submission of application for the PBL Aspirants Camp will be on Sept. 19. Thirty players, most of them from collegiate leagues, have confirmed their participation in the camp, which will be held in two sessions on Sept. 22 and one on Sept. 23. The morning session will run from 9 a.m. to noon while the afternoon session will be from 2-5 p.m. The Sept. 23 session will run from 2-5 p.m. For inquiries, call the PBL office at 897-6383/895-6483.

Layugan tops junior chess

GABBY Layugan downed Eric Villegas in the fifth round to rule the junior bracket in the final evaluation tournament of the fifth series of Milo Checkmate Saturday-only clinic held at the J&F Divino Bldg. in Quezon City. The 11-year-old Layugan, a grade 5 student of Ateneo, wound up with 4 points on four wins and one loss. MJ Turqueza of Pinyahan Elem. School bagged the Under 12 title with a perfect score of 5 points while Malcolm Kwok and Aldous Roy Coronel won the Under 10 and Under 8 sections, respectively. Layugan also topped the Advance course with 5 wins and one draw .

Naga sports festival

SPORTS and cultural events will be held in consonance with the celebration of the Bicol regional fiesta this month. Naga City Sports Council overall chair Pedro C. Lee said the events include the 3rd Revicon Bakbakan sa Plaza Amateur Boxing on Sept. 17 at 6 p.m. at the Plaza Quezon, Naga City. On Sept. 19, the council will hold the 1st Rhythmic Gymnastics, the 3rd Cheering Competition, the 17th Taekwondo at 5 p.m. and the 6th Bakbakan sa Danlugan Amateur Boxing at 6 p.m.

Arcilla seeks 7th title

THE THIRD leg of the P1 million Cebuana Lhuillier Tennis Circuit kicks off today at the Xavier Sports and Country Club in Cagayan de Oro City. Johnny Arcilla, who won the Manila Polo Club and Subic legs of the circuit, is favored to win his seventh straight title. Arcilla will be challenged by fellow nationals Joseph Victorino, Adelo Abadia, Michael Mora III and Rolando Ruel Jr. in the Philta-sanctioned event offering P30,000 to the singles champion and P17,000 to the doubles winners.

Stag festival today

MORE than 100 matches will highlight the Stag Festival 5-Stag Derby at the Roligon Mega Cockpit today. On tap is the first round eliminations (2-stag), followed by the second round on Thursday, with all qualifiers advancing to the finals on Saturday. Those who wish to join on Thursday may call 833-2275 and 833-1638 (look for Tiling or Shirley). Top promoter Rolly Ligon, derby host, will be assisted by Shio and Roming Vergara.

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1 Day 1: Super! Fun Machine
On September 14, Sunday, selected readers and special guests of Super! will enjoy screenings of two movies at the Greenbelt 3 Cinemas 1 and 2. For trendo-philes, there's Legally Blonde 2, and for the speed freaks, check out 2 Fast 2 Furious. There will be games and giveaways for added fund. Cocktails start at three p.m.

2 Day 2: Super Muscle Builder
Sept. 15, Monday, is the day for the athletic. Teams of advertisers and Super! young athletes will compete in fitness games at Play Underground in [illegible] onwards. Flex those muscles and start warming [illegible] will push you to the limit.

3 Day 3: Super! Comedy and Karaoke
Celebrities, readers and advertisers will take I.O. and Comfort Room by storm on Tuesday, Sept. 16, in a night packed with music and quality comedy. From 8:30 p.m. onwards.

4 Day 4: Super! Ghetto Fabulous!
Celebrities, readers, R&B fanatics, breakdancers, homeboys and fly girls will be taking over Absinth in Greenbelt 3 for a night to remember on Wednesday, Sept. 17, at 10 p.m.

5 Day 5: Super! X-posed
Super! gets naughty on Thursday night, Sept. 18, in Bed, Maria Orosa, Malate. Games and prizes await the wild and the willing.
For your dose of posh R&B, check out Steve Mills at Azzuro@Sommerset, Aguirre Street. Groove amid a plush scene of fun and fab. From 10p.m. onwards.

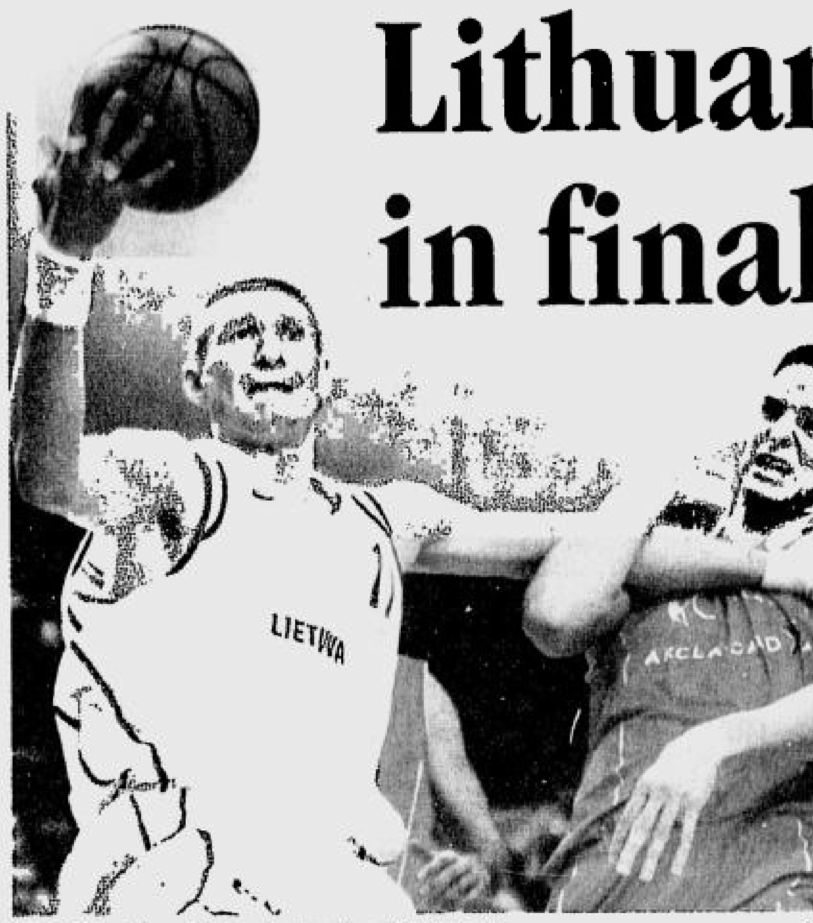
6 Day 6: The Launch of Super!
This is one Super! weekend you will never forget. Big Fish and Addict mobile, Wrangler, Jose Cuervo bring in international DJ Danny Howells (top 12 in the world) to coincide with the launch of Super! He will be spinning at CATS disco of the New World Renaissance with our very own DJ Tuck Cheah at 10 p.m. After party to be announced. Super! surprises await everyone.

7 Day 7: Super! "Circo Loco" with NBK
DJ Manolet Dario and percussionist Fritz Barth jam with Super! at Dream Bar 6750 at 10p.m. House music, anthems, Latin beats – a free flowing night of fun vibe and fab people.

*All events are on a first come, first served basis.
Your Super! tips to make sure you make it to the events:

1. Cut out the Super! logo found on the September 13 issue of Saturday Special Super!
2. Be at the gate when it opens on the specified time of the night. (Make sure you're there before the others do.)
3. Register your names to claim your freebies and to be a part of the raffle for the night.
4. Make sure you are identified as a Super! guest so wear your Super! buttons all the time. (Super! buttons will serve as your passport to the other nights.)
5. Have ultimate fun with the other Super! guests all throughout the week. Ain't that Super?!

Lithuania trips Spain in final; Italy makes it


GASOL holds a driving Zukauskas of Lithuania. AP

STOCKHOLM, Sweden—Lithuania won its third title at the European Basketball Championships on Sunday, beating Spain, 93-84, behind 21 points from Arvydas Macijauskas.

The small Baltic country, which won its two previous titles in the late 1930s, led 40-31 at the half and gradually increased the lead before Spain staged a brief rally late in the fourth quarter.

With five minutes left, Lithuania led by 21 points (78-57) for its biggest lead.

Spain never managed to cut the lead to less than 10 until Pau Gasol of the Memphis Grizzlies scored the final basket to make the winning margin 9 points.

Eurelijius Zukauskas added 18 points for the winners.

Gasol, last year's rookie of the year in the NBA and one of the tournament's top scorers with a 23.8-points-per-game average going into the final, led Spain with 36 points.

Earlier, Tony Parker missed a layup for 2000 Olympic silver medalist France with less than two seconds left as Italy held on to win the bronze-medal game, 69-67.

Perhaps more important than the bronze was that Italy clinched the last remaining European berth in next year's Olympic tournament in Athens.

Lithuania and Spain qualified by winning semifinal games Saturday. Host Greece and world champion Serbia and Montenegro earned automatic spots. *AP*

Shock force do-or-die tiff

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan—Deanna Nolan's two free throws with 12.1 seconds left gave the Detroit Shock a 62-61 win over the Los Angeles Sparks on Sunday, and forced a decisive Game 3 in the WNBA Finals.

The two-time defending champion Sparks led by four points with 1:28 left, after trailing by 19 late in the first half. But they couldn't make the shots or stops needed to win.

Kedra Holland-Corn's 3-pointer pulled Detroit within one, and Nolan's free throws gave Detroit the lead for good. The Sparks were unable to get off a clean shot in the final seconds.

The best-of-three series will conclude Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila) at The Palace, which drew a crowd of 17,846 for Game 2.

Meanwhile, Lauren Jackson of the Seattle Storm was chosen as the WNBA MVP on Sunday.

Jackson, who led the league with 21.2 points a game, received 23 of 54 first-place votes and 406 total from a nationwide media panel. *AP*

Sorenstam powers Europe past US

LODDEKOPINGE, Sweden—The singing and chanting started on the first tee and never let up until Europe won the Solheim Cup 17 1/2 to 10 1/2, the biggest blowout ever in the event's history.

The Swedes have never seen a golf competition quite like this. They rarely get a chance to see their most famous athlete, Annika Sorenstam, at her very best.

It was a lethal combination Sunday, and the Americans never had a chance.

"We've always thought they were so much better," Sorenstam said. "This year, I didn't think the gap was that big. And the advantage we had was being over here."

The score, 17 1/2 to 10 1/2, was slightly skewed by a chaotic conclusion at Barseback Golf & Country Club.

Sorenstam won her fourth match of the week, 3 and 2 over Angela Stanford, to put Europe on the cusp of winning.

Meanwhile, J.L. Lewis and Vijay Singh held a one-stroke lead after a long day of golf Sunday didn't produce a winner at the rain-soaked John Deere Classic. Lewis, who won the tournament in 1999, and Singh, third on the PGA money list this year, were at 12-under after completing the rain-delayed third round. They only played five holes of the final round, which will resume Monday morning. *AP*

Oldest sister of Venus, Serena shot to death

COMPTON, California—The oldest sister of tennis stars Venus and Serena Williams was shot to death in the crime-ridden Los Angeles suburb that the family left years ago, authorities said.

Yetunde Price, a registered nurse who owned a beauty salon, was a personal assistant to her famous half-sisters.

Price, 31, had been with a man in a sport utility vehicle shortly after midnight Sunday and "somehow they had become involved in a confrontation with the local residents," said Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy Richard Pena.

Sheriff's deputies surrounded a house in Compton early Sunday, searching for three people believed to be involved in the shooting, but the house turned out to be empty. No arrests had been made yet.

Price was shot in the upper torso. Deputies on patrol heard the gunshots and found Price, who was later pronounced dead at a hospital. The man who had been with her in the SUV wasn't injured and was being interviewed by authorities, Pena said.

"As the oldest sibling and daughter, it was Yetunde who provided the stability to our family," the Williams family said in a statement. "She was our nucleus and our rock." *AP*

Lewis sets NFL record

BALTIMORE—Jamal Lewis mentioned setting the NFL rushing record against Cleveland, then ran through the Browns for 295 yards in Baltimore's 33-13 victory at home Sunday.

Earlier in the week, Lewis told Browns linebacker Andra Davis he might smash Corey Dillon's 278-yard mark. With touchdown bursts of 82 and 63 yards, he did just that, breaking the record with a 3-yard run with 6:55 left.

"Andra told me he wanted me to get the ball 30 times," Lewis said. "I told him if I get the ball 30 times it's going to be a career day.

"I'm not going to say I predicted it. It was lucky."

Lewis had 100 yards by his second carry and was at 180 yards by halftime. He carried 30 times, averaging a whopping 9.8 yards per carry, as Cleveland fell to 0-2.

Last October, he shredded Cleveland for 187 yards.

In St. Louis, Marc Bulger shook off two first-half turnovers, throwing for two touchdowns and keeping his cool on the final drive as the Rams beat the San Francisco 49ers, 27-24, in overtime. Jeff Wilkins kicked a 28-yard field goal in overtime. *AP*

Valdez leads qualifiers

REIGNING WNCAA titlist Diane Valdez of College of St. Benilde ousted Ateneo bet Edel Correa while Arlene Ng of Philippine Cultural High School hurdled Ana Estela Falcon of St. Martin in the first LG Table Tennis age-group invitational championships at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum yesterday.

The 18-year-old Valdez repulsed Correa, 11-5, 11-6, 11-6, in the women's 20-under category, while Ng paced the girls' 17-under class with an 11-8, 11-6, 9-11, 11-7 win over Falcon at the close of the two-day qualifying rounds.

In a duel of former Palarong Pambansa champions, Isaias Seronio of UP subdued Johanne Remaneses, 11-4, 7-11, 11-6, 11-9, while Mark Jimenez battled from a set down to down James Borleo of PAF, 3-11, 11-7, 11-3, 11-7, and advance in the men's 30-under category.

Joining them in the next round are Michael Dalumpines and Jeff Randel Vinas, who eked out a pair of five-set victories over Kirby Colis, 11-8, 7-11, 10-12, 11-9, 11-6, and Darwin Esguerra of PAF, 11-2, 9-11, 11-8, 5-11, respectively.

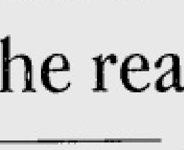
RTC, St. Benilde triumph

RIZAL Technological University scored victories in seniors volleyball while College of St. Benilde finally snapped St. Benedict College's winning run in basketball Sunday in the 34th WNCAA-adidas tournament.

RTU downed last season's runner-up Assumption University-Pampanga Saturday, 25-21, 25-24, 25-20, and whipped Emilio Aguinaldo College-Manila the following day, 25-14, 25-18, 25-9, to lead the seniors level at 7-0.

The real judge

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

THE FOLLOWING came out in this corner on Sunday: "Boxers are the proudest of athletes. If they lose on points, they don't usually consider that a defeat. At times, they even question the veracity of a knockout."

That was proven again on Sunday when Oscar de la Hoya lost on points to Sugar Shane Mosley. De la Hoya refused to accept defeat; he said he would ask for an investigation of the round-by-round result submitted by the three judges, who all scored the fight, 115-113, in favor of Mosley.

I agree with De La Hoya. Not that I saw him the winner, 118-116, but because it was almost unthinkable for three judges to come up with identical results—not to mention the fact that the fight had a very unbalanced tempo that it was really that hard to imagine three persons having the same brain wave at the same time. The ratio of its occurrence is one in a billion, as in winning the lotto jackpot.

"Not since the marauding days of Jesse James had a heist as heinous has happened again on Sunday," said Hermie Rivera, the manager of former world champions Luisito Espinosa and Morris East. "That fight was a holdup."

DILG Undersecretary Al Fernandez, sipping his morning coffee at Sulo Hotel, almost fell off his chair upon hearing that. Said -Buloy Al: "De la Hoya lost even though he landed more punches than Mosley. If it were an amateur fight, said some of my colleagues, De la Hoya could have won it hands-down."

The debate will rage on and on and on. But as history would tell us, a protest like De la Hoya's, would most likely not prosper.

Those of you who watched the fight on TV would have an opinion different from mine. That is expected.

For example, while I'd say that De la Hoya had won it, some of you—if not many of you—would say otherwise. Fine. This is a free country.

It has happened a lot of times. Like a decision perceived as flawed marring what otherwise was a beautiful fight, such as that fight on Sunday in Las Vegas, the gambling capital of the world.

To be sure, though, the De la Hoya-Mosley bout for the 154-lb world crown was not exactly a beautiful fight mainly because there were no knockdowns. Just a jarring shot here and another there, or an occasional exchange of punches—mostly inconsequential—during toe-to-toe combat that came as rare as an eclipse. In fact, the crowd booed the fight three times—one in the eighth and twice in the 10th.

I gave four rounds to De la Hoya, the biggest of which was Round 5 where he delivered crisp combinations to the face and unleashed some clear uppercuts. After the round, De la Hoya's corner man was ecstatic, telling the Golden Boy: "You're looking good, baby." He also won Rounds 2, 6 and 8.

Mosley got my nod in Rounds 9 and 10. He almost decked De la Hoya in Round 9 that after the round Mosley's father, the challenger's trainer, told Shane: "You got him there! He is yours!"

But Mosley, although clearly the aggressor since he was the challenger, failed to deliver the follow-up shots in Round 10. Clearly, De la Hoya had appeared weak as he was still recovering from the battering he took in Round 9. Only when the crowd booed them again did Mosley start pounding De la Hoya, who survived on repeated clinches.

Both boxers traded hard punches in the last two rounds but I scored them even as neither one had the clear edge. It must have been in those rounds that the three judges gave their nods to Mosley and thus turned things around for De la Hoya. In all likelihood, that was what happened.

If you can believe that, listen once again to Jimmy Cannon: "In its rotten beginnings, boxing has always been called the red district of sports."

Did the judge make a prostitute out of the fight by deliberately making De la Hoya the loser?

Again, you be the judge, fellas.

***

FASTBREAK. I urge President Macapagal-Arroyo to accept Go Teng Kok's offer to be the guest of honor and speaker when the Asian Athletics Championship opens on Sept. 20 at the Rizal Memorial Track-Football Stadium. She shouldn't miss this rare chance to show her oneness with Asian sports. The President would be speaking before hundreds of athletes and officials from 44 countries, the biggest ever sports gathering in memory. Her presence would boost her stature as a true-blue sports lover . . . Even before Ateneo had repeated over De La Salle on Saturday, Rich Alvarez has entered the Magic 10 in the UAAP's MVP derby. In 13 games, Alvarez, the MVP in 2000 and 2001, is now No. 6 with 54.31 statistical points; Mark Cardona of De La Salle is No. 1 with 66.82. I am interested in Alvarez mainly because should he bag the award, he will become the first man to win three MVPs in UAAP senior play. A good copy isn't it?

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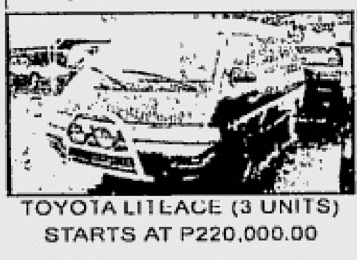

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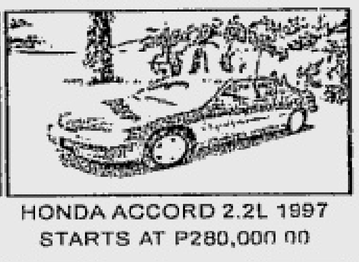

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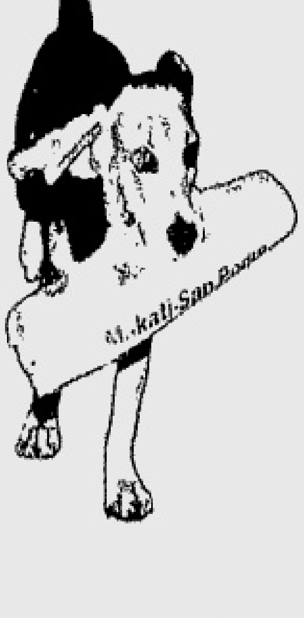

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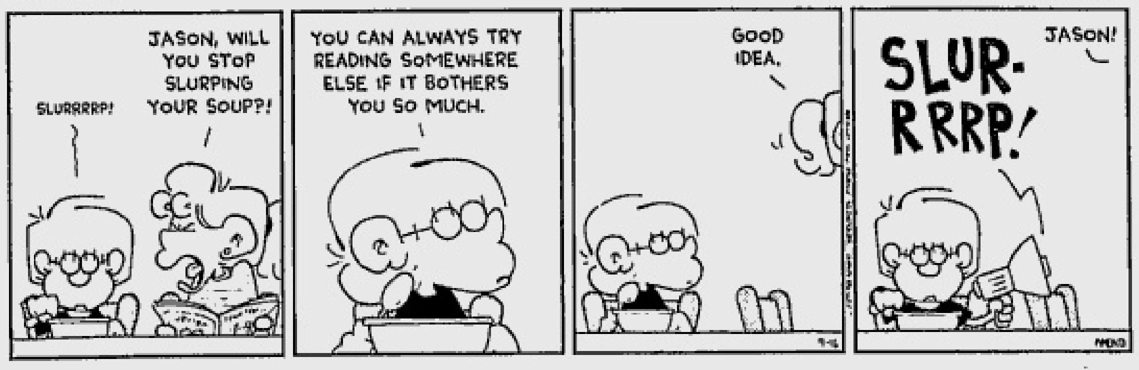
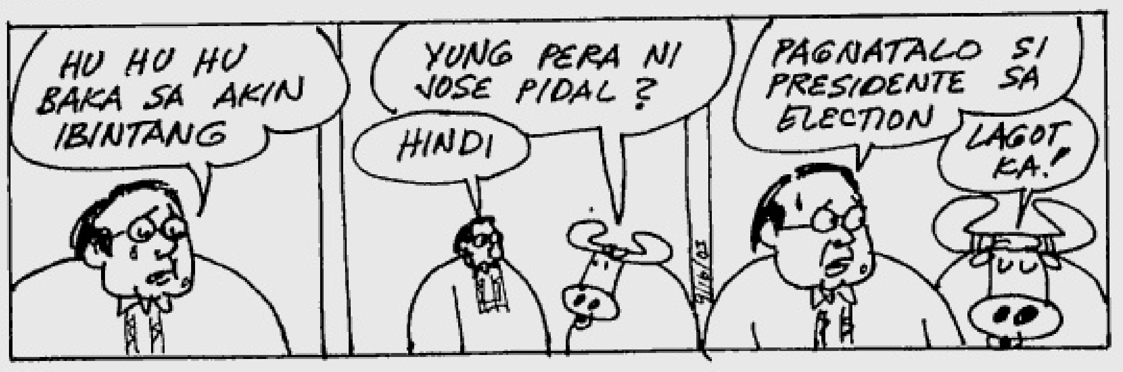
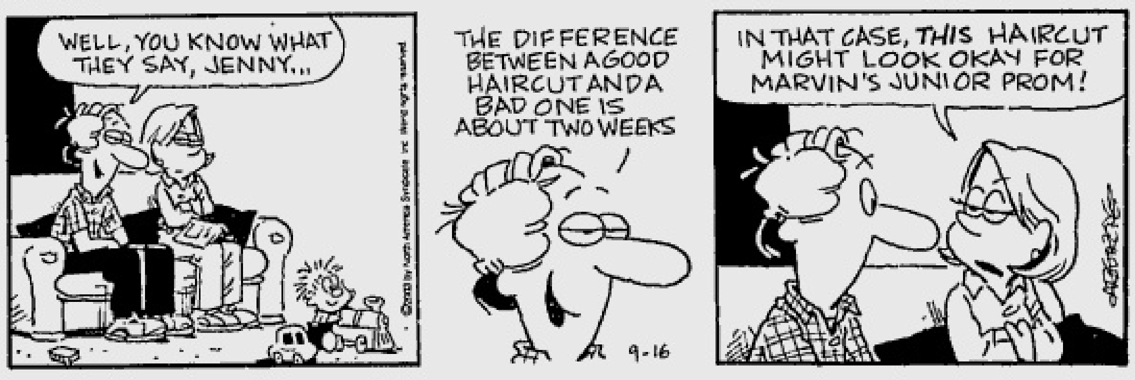

SLURRRRP!
JASON, WILL YOU STOP SLURPING YOUR SOUP?!
YOU CAN ALWAYS TRY READING SOMEWHERE ELSE IF IT BOTHERS YOU SO MUCH.
GOOD IDEA.
SLUR-RRRP!
JASON!

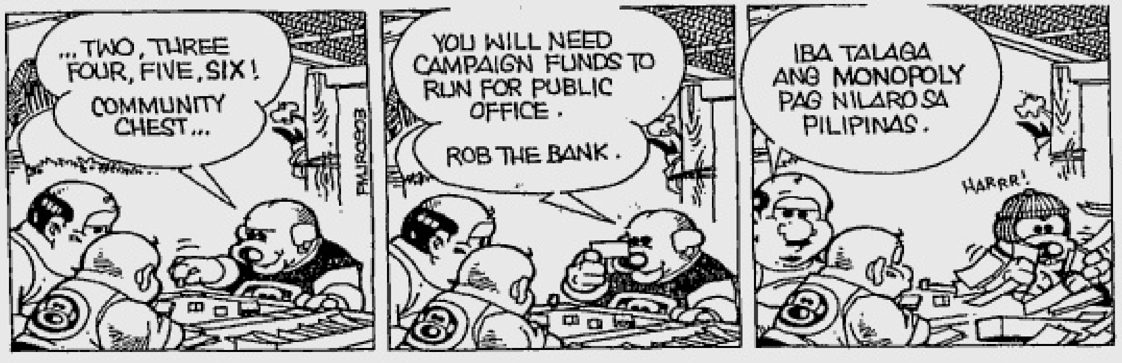
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


HU HU HU BAKA SA AKIN IBINTANG
YUNG PERA NI JOSE PIDAL ?
HINDI
PAGNATALO SI PRESIDENTE SA ELECTION
LAGOT KA!

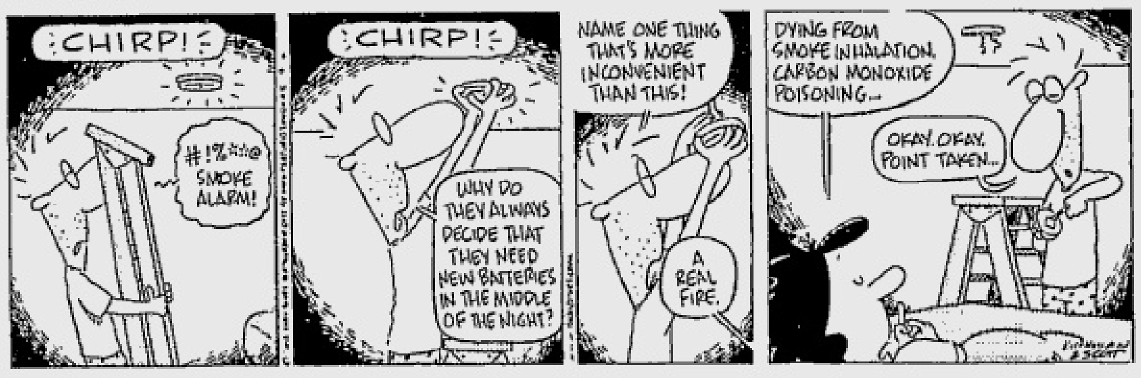
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY, JENNY...
THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A GOOD HAIRCUT AND A BAD ONE IS ABOUT TWO WEEKS
IN THAT CASE, THIS HAIRCUT MIGHT LOOK OKAY FOR MARVIN'S JUNIOR PROM!
9-16

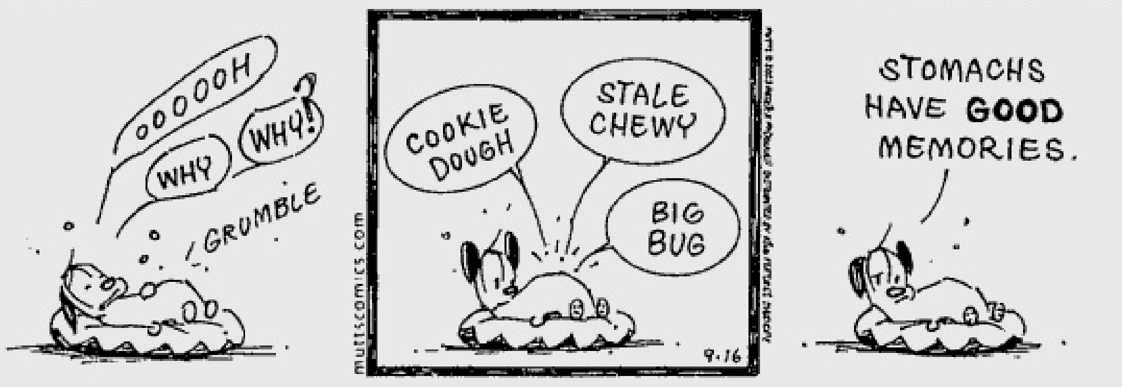
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


...TWO, THREE FOUR, FIVE, SIX!
COMMUNITY CHEST...
YOU WILL NEED CAMPAIGN FUNDS TO RUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE.
ROB THE BANK.
IBA TALAGA ANG MONOPOLY PAG NILARO SA PILIPINAS.
HARRR!

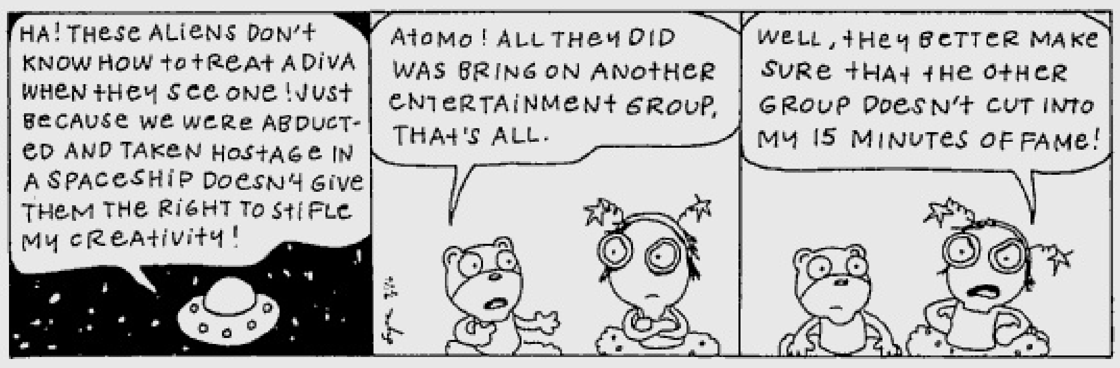
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


CHIRP!
#!%*@ SMOKE ALARM!
CHIRP!
WHY DO THEY ALWAYS DECIDE THAT THEY NEED NEW BATTERIES IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT?
NAME ONE THING THAT'S MORE INCONVENIENT THAN THIS!
A REAL FIRE.
DYING FROM SMOKE INHALATION. CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING...
OKAY. OKAY. POINT TAKEN...

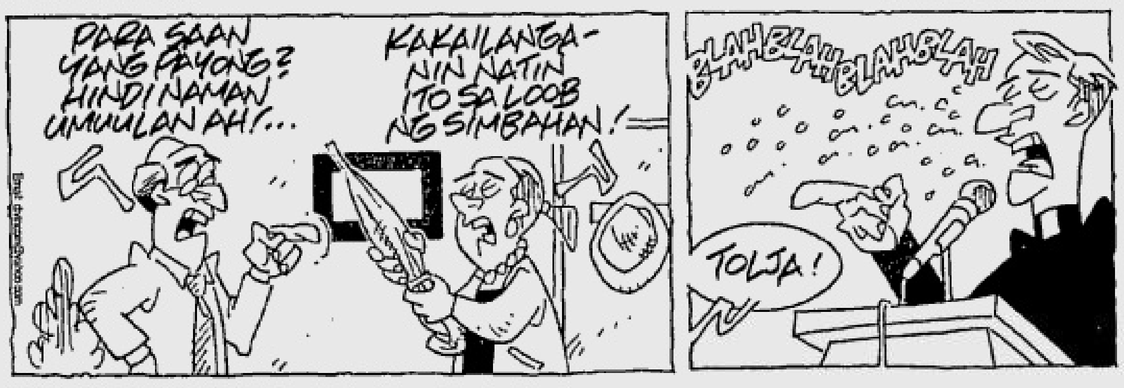
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


OOOOOH
WHY
WHY!
GRUMBLE
COOKIE DOUGH
STALE CHEWY
BIG BUG
muttscomics.com
9-16
STOMACHS HAVE GOOD MEMORIES.

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HA! THESE ALIENS DON'T KNOW HOW TO TREAT A DIVA WHEN THEY SEE ONE! JUST BECAUSE WE WERE ABDUCTED AND TAKEN HOSTAGE IN A SPACESHIP DOESN'T GIVE THEM THE RIGHT TO STIFLE MY CREATIVITY!
ATOMO! ALL THEY DID WAS BRING ON ANOTHER ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, THAT'S ALL.
WELL, THEY BETTER MAKE SURE THAT THE OTHER GROUP DOESN'T CUT INTO MY 15 MINUTES OF FAME!

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


PARA SAAN YANG PAYONG? HINDI NAMAN UMUULAN AH!...
KAKAILANGANIN NATIN ITO SA LOOB NG SIMBAHAN!
BLAHBLAHBLAHBLAH
TOLJA!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are unusually big-hearted and generous. You attack life with a ferocious courage. Nothing can daunt you because you have such a strong spirit. Others admire your bravery. Your zest for life and a strong sense of competitiveness help you to reach your goals. Important choices are available to you this year. Choose wisely.
Birthdate of: Lauren Bacall, actress; Jennifer Tilly, actress; B.B. King, musician.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Financial matters might catch you off guard today. Check your money scene before leaving home. Make sure you do not forget your wallet.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Discussions with bosses could make you feel impatient this morning. Your best option is to not react. Your feelings will mellow out quite quickly.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Unexpected opportunities related to publishing, travel or education are possible early this morning. Be ready to capitalize on them if you can. Turn everything to your advantage.

CANCER: (June 21 to July 22): When dealing with a friend or group today, make sure everybody puts in his or her fair share of money or support. Double-check things now .

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Don't get caught in the middle of a dispute between a partner or close friend and your parent or a boss. Try to stay neutral, because there are two sides to every issue.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Confusion and minor errors at work could mean delays in travel and matters related to publishing and education. Fortunately, these silly glitches will be gone in a week.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Be extra-patient when dealing with children and young people today. The morning is especially testing. Remember that because you are older, you have more perspective about things.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): How you start your day is often how the rest of the day will unfold. Be patient with family members this morning. Your understanding and tolerance will benefit others as well as yourself.

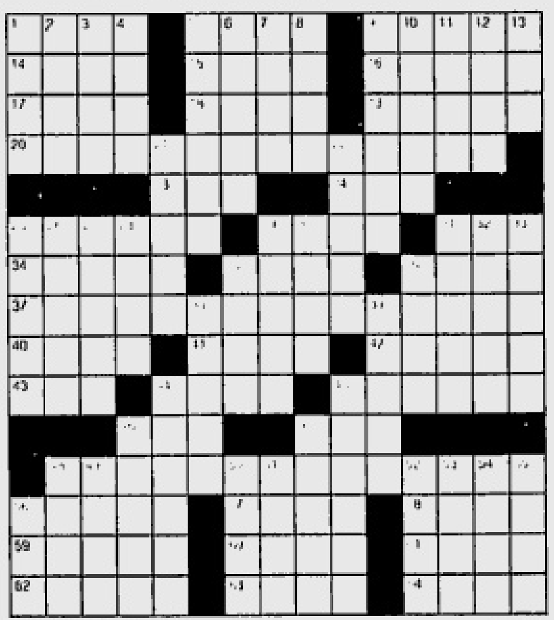
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Take extra care when driving or walking this morning. Minor distractions are often insignificant, yet they can be enough to cause an accident.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Resist the impulse to spontaneously go overboard spending money for fun this morning. It's all right to treat yourself, but you have to make sure you know what you're doing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Wait until later in the day to make important purchases today. A gift or help from someone else could make a big difference in your decisions.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Although you might feel impatient this morning, later in the day your ability to deal with others is excellent. Postpone important decisions if you can. You'll be glad you did.

DAILY CROSSWORD

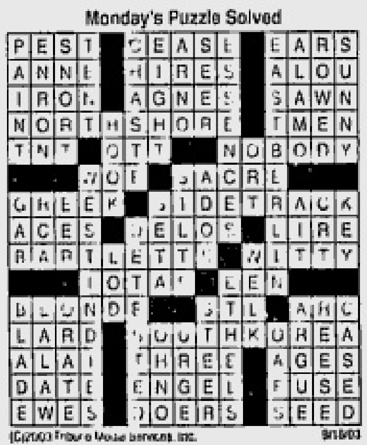


By Mark Moldowsky
Huntington, NY
9/16/03

ACROSS
1 Heart of the matter
5 Highlander
9 Beaming
14 Norwegian capital
15 Conspire
16 Amanda or Robert
17 Hale or King
18 Tea-leaf reader
19 Eagle's nest
20 Sinful dessert?
23 Affirmative response
24 Operate
25 Peaceful
29 Satisfies a debt
31 __, right in the kisser!
34 Ben of golf
35 Hawaiian island
36 "Peter Pan" pooch
37 What disabled planes come in on
40 Mailed
41 Action word
42 Occurrence
43 Work unit
44 Military post
45 Procreates
46 Taro product
47 Lingerie buy
48 Fawcett, Smith and Jackson
56 Piece of broken pottery
57 Tel __-Jaffa
58 Hammer's target
59 "Siddhartha" author
60 "The Immoralist" author
61 Zenith
62 Old-time anesthetic
63 Spanish cheers
64 Melt

DOWN
1 Incite
2 __ of Wight
3 Czech or Slovak
4 Singer Tennille
5 Mouthed off
6 Staff signs
7 Butter sub
8 Novice
9 Ancient calculator
10 Gather gradually
11 Spree
12 Depression migrant
13 Tiny
21 Committing perjury
22 Desiccate
25 Lunar state
26 Bring down
27 Growing old
28 Quitter's word
29 Military chaplain
30 Peck in "Moby Dick"
31 Name on a check
32 Upright
33 Viral lumps
35 Sawbuck change
36 Church part
38 Effective use
39 Aired again
44 Boundary line
45 Atlanta team
46 Analyze syntactically
47 Back of a 45
48 Newsman Huntley
49 Slung dish
50 "Othello" role
51 Wicked
52 Pesky insect
53 To __ his own
54 City in Ohio or Peru
55 Oiled
56 Haggard novel

Monday's Puzzle Solved



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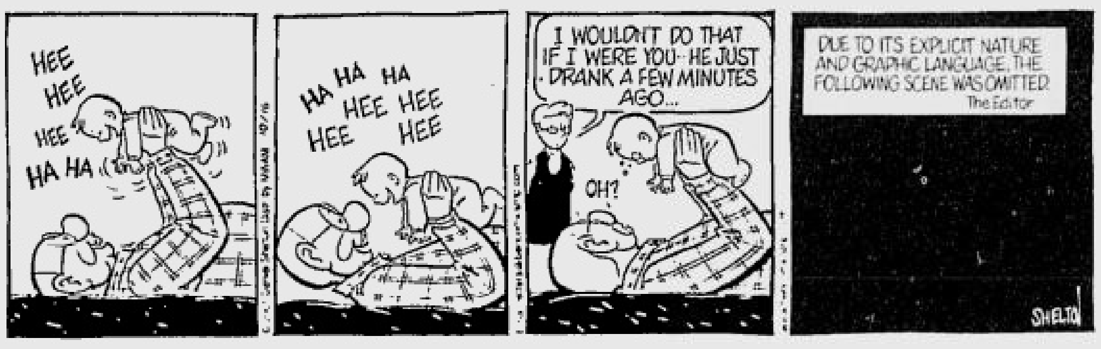
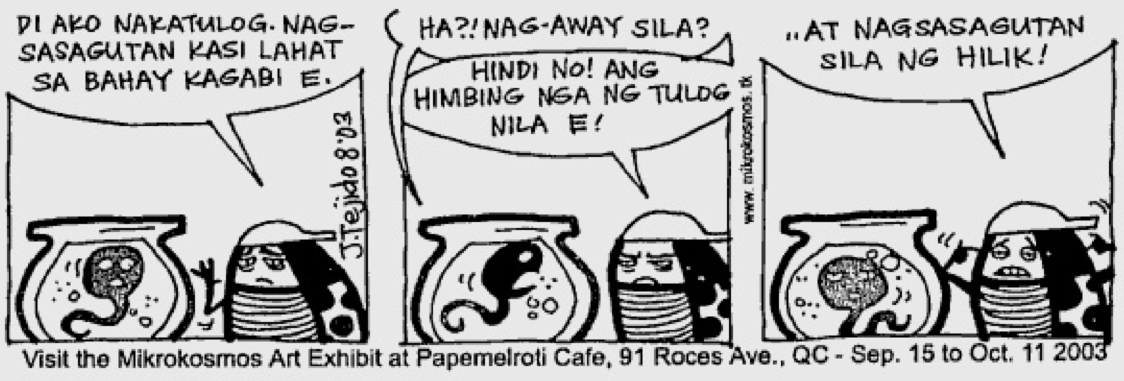
9/15/03

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

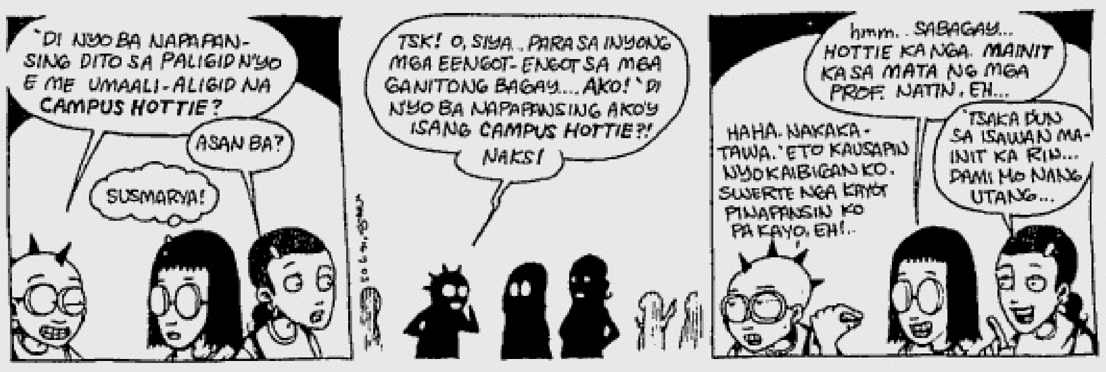

HEE HEE HEE HA HA
HA HA HA HEE HEE HEE HEE
I WOULDN'T DO THAT IF I WERE YOU - HE JUST DRANK A FEW MINUTES AGO...
OH?
DUE TO ITS EXPLICIT NATURE AND GRAPHIC LANGUAGE, THE FOLLOWING SCENE WAS OMITTED. The Editor
SHELTON

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

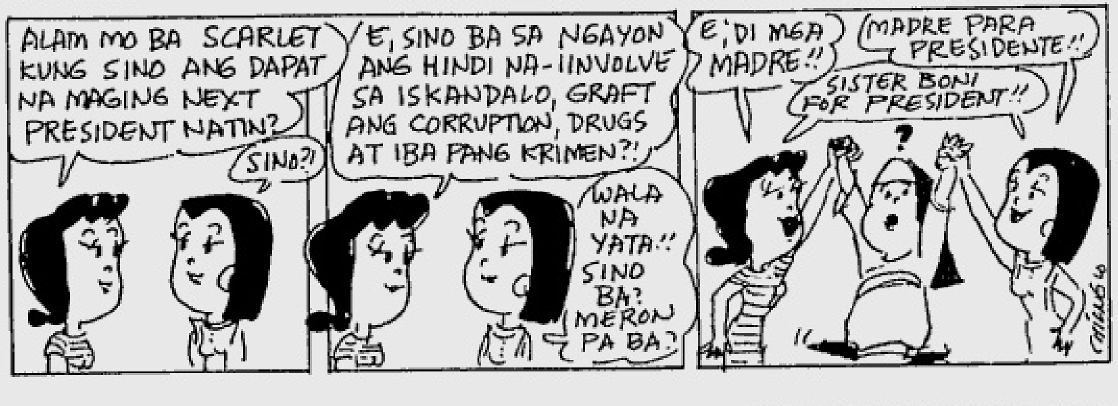

DI AKO NAKATULOG. NAGSASAGUTAN KASI LAHAT SA BAHAY KAGABI E.
J.Tejido 8'03
HA?! NAG-AWAY SILA?
HINDI NO! ANG HIMBING NGA NG TULOG NILA E!
www.mikrokosmos.tk
..AT NAGSASAGUTAN SILA NG HILIK!

Visit the Mikrokosmos Art Exhibit at Papemelroti Cafe, 91 Roces Ave., QC - Sep. 15 to Oct. 11 2003

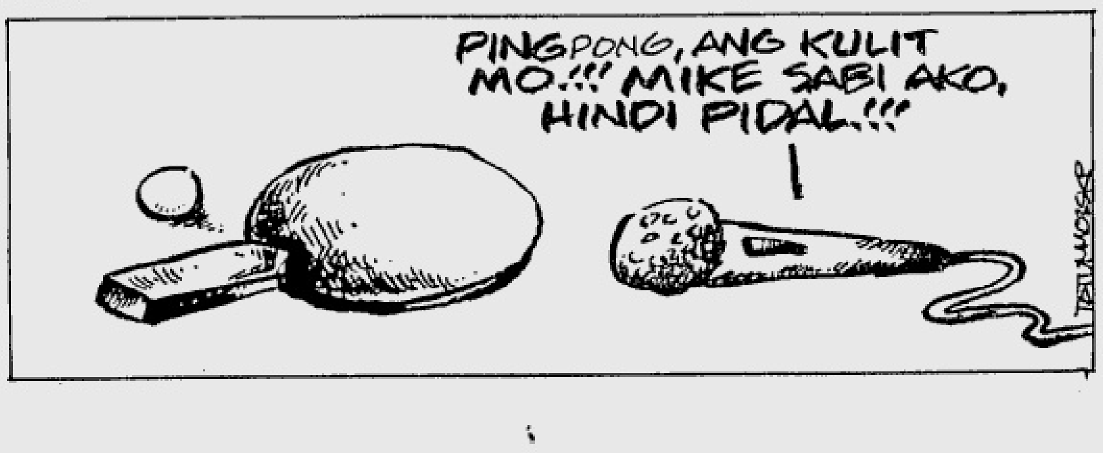
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


'DI NYO BA NAPAPANSING DITO SA PALIGID N'YO E ME UMAALI-ALIGID NA CAMPUS HOTTIE?
ASAN BA?
SUSMARYA!
TSK! O, SIYA.. PARA SA INYONG MGA EENGOT-ENGOT SA MGA GANITONG BAGAY.... AKO! 'DI NYO BA NAPAPANSING AKO'Y ISANG CAMPUS HOTTIE?!
NAKS!
hmm.. SABAGAY... HOTTIE KA NGA. MAINIT KA SA MATA NG MGA PROF. NATIN, EH...
HAHA. NAKAKATAWA. 'ETO KAUSAPIN NYO KAIBIGAN KO. SUWERTE NGA KAYO PINAPANSIN KO PA KAYO, EH!..
'TSAKA DUN SA ISAWAN MAINIT KA RIN... DAMI MO NANG UTANG...

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ALAM MO BA SCARLET KUNG SINO ANG DAPAT NA MAGING NEXT PRESIDENT NATIN?
SINO?!
E, SINO BA SA NGAYON ANG HINDI NA-IINVOLVE SA ISKANDALO, GRAFT ANG CORRUPTION, DRUGS AT IBA PANG KRIMEN?!
WALA NA YATA!! SINO BA? MERON PA BA?
E, 'DI MGA MADRE!!
MADRE PARA PRESIDENTE!!
SISTER BONI FOR PRESIDENT!!
?

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


PINGPONG, ANG KULIT MO.!!! MIKE SABI AKO, HINDI PIDAL.!!!

ALL DIGITAL SOUND

AYALA CINEMAS

PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 THE MEDALLION	1 S.W.A.T.	Art Film LE PACTE DU SILENCE (EXCLUSIVE) 11:50, 1:40, 3:30, 5:20, 7:10, 9:00	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 1 S.W.A.T. 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00	THX 1 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
2 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS	2 LEGALLY BLONDE 2	2 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS 2:25, 4:40, 6:55, 9:10, 11:25	2 DADDY DAY CARE
3 DADDY DAY CARE	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30	MARTIN NIEVERA Sep. 19 & 20, 9PM	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 THE MEDALLION 1:20, 3:10, 5:00, 6:50, 8:40, 10:30	3 S.W.A.T.
4 S.W.A.T	4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN	BEAUTY & THE BEAST (THE MUSICAL PLAY) Sept 18, 7PM	GUARANTEED SEATS 4 DADDY DAY CARE 1:20, 3:10, 5:00, 6:50, 8:40, 10:30	4 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
	5 SINBAD 2 FAST 2 FRUIOUS		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 LEGALLY BLONDE 2 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	5 THE MEDALLION
	6 THE MEDALLION			
	7 DADDY DAY CARE			

For sreening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

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1 (Dolby) MEDALLION
2 (SDDS) PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
3 DTS LEGALLY BLONDE 2
4 GOLD (DTS ES) 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
5 GOLD (DOLBY EX) MEDALLION
6 GOLD (SDDS) SWAT
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX) DADDY DAY CARE
8 SPY KIDS 3D
9 PINAY PIE
10 SINBAD

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2 RESERVE
3 (DTS) RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (DTS) RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX RESERVE

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1 KALABIT
2 MEDALLION
3 ASBOOBS

starmall Movies

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(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1 MEDALLION
2 ASBOOBS
3 KALABIT
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) SWAT
5 WWW.XXX.COM

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1 KALABIT
2 WWW.XXX.COM
3 ASBOOBS
4 MEDALLION
5 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
6 SWAT

M star

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1 SWAT
2 ASBOOBS

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2 FAST 2 FURIOUS

Center Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 PINAY PIE
2 ITALIAN JOB

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.

tel 930.9515

1
2
3

Sunshine

(FTI, Taguig) TEL. 776-74-21

1 KALABIT
2 ASBOOBS
3 SWAT
4 RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City

(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 MEDALLION
4 RESERVE
5 KALABIT
6 ASBOOBS
7 (DTS) 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
8 (SDDS) SWAT
9 (DOLBY) DADDY DAY CARE

Gotesco Caloocan

tel 362.3508

2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central

(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1 KALABIT
2 PINAY PIE
3 ASBOOBS
4 (DDS) SWAT
5 MEDALLION
6 (DOLBY) 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
7 (DTS) DADDY DAY CARE
8 WWW.XXX.COM
9 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN

Gotesco Commonwealth

tel 951.0082

1 ASBOOBS
2 (SDDS) DADDY DAY CARE
3 (DTS) MEDALLION
4 (DOLBY) 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
5 KALABIT

Gotesco Ortigas

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1 ASBOOBS
2 MEDALLION
3 (DTS) 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
4 KALABIT
5 (SDDS) SWAT

Universal

(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 RESERVE

Sampaguita

(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 RESERVE

Dilson

(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson NAKED EYE
Lords JAIL BIRDS
Jennet RESERVE

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1 ASBOOBS
2 MEDALLION
3 KALABIT
4 SWAT

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA

tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) MEDALLION
2 SWAT
3 KALABIT
4 ASBOOBS
5 RESERVE

FRC Cinema

(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 ASBOOBS
2 KALABIT

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT Araneta

MALL CINEPLEX 7

tel 911.3101 loc. 821,8242,8400

1 KALABIT
2 ASBOOBS
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) THE MEDALLION
4 (SDDS) 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
5 (DTS) SWAT
6 DADDY DAY CARE
7 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN

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1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall

(Sta. Rosa Laguna) TEL. (049) 837-0926

1 WWW.XXX.COM
2 PINAY PIE
3 (DTS) 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 SPY KIDS 3D
2 (DTS) SWAT
3 (DOLBY) 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
4 DADDY DAY CARE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 DADDY DAY CARE
2 (DOLBY) SPY KIDS 3D
3 (DTS) 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
4 SWAT

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 SPY KIDS 3D
2 PINAY PIE
3 (DOLBY) PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
4

Cinema 2000 MetroTown

(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1 PINAY PIE
2 KEKA
3 (DOLBY) PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
4 ITALIAN JOB

Magic Star Cinema

(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY) PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
2 ITALIAN JOB
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) VISIBLE SECRET
2 ASBOOBS
3 (DTS) WWW.XXX.COM
4 KALABIT

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) SWAT
2 PINAY PIE
3 (DTS) 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
4 WWW.XXX.COM
5 DADDY DAY CARE

Olivarez Tri-Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 PINAY PIE
2 WWW.XXX.COM
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Olivarez Los Baños

tel (049) 249.2558

1 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
2 SWAT
3 SPY KIDS 3D

Mega Center Mall

(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1 ITALIAN JOB
2 NOON AT NGAYON
3 (DTS) KEKA
4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN

Cabuyao

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1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Emperor

(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 WWW.XXX.COM
2 ASBOOBS
3 RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 WWW.XXX.COM
2 PINAY PIE
3 ITALIAN JOB
4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY EX) SWAT
2 KEKA
3 (DTS ES) 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
4 DADDY DAY CARE

Cine Nepo Mall

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-0121

1 PINAY PIE
2 DADDY DAY CARE
3 (DOLBY) SWAT
4 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS

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SM CITY BACOOR

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1 ASBOOBS
2 KALABIT
3 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
4 DADDY DAY CARE
5 S.W.A.T.
6 THE MEDALLION
7 PINAY PIE
8 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

SM CENTERPOINT

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1 THE MEDALLION
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
3 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
4 WWW.XXX.COM
5 S.W.A.T.
6 ASBOOBS
7 PINAY PIE
8 DADDY DAY CARE
9 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
10 KALABIT

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

9350749

1 SINBAD
2 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
3 WWW.XXX.COM
4 THE MEDALLION
5 S.W.A.T.
6 PINAY PIE
7 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
8 ASBOOBS
9 DADDY DAY CARE
10 KALABIT
11 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
12 THE MEDALLION

SM CITY MANILA

5238240

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
2 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
3 S.W.A.T.
4 THE MEDALLION
5 DADDY DAY CARE
6 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
7 KALABIT
8 WWW.XXX.COM
9 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
10 PINAYPIE
11 ASBOOBS
12 THE MEDALLION

SM MEGAMALL

6331901 • 6329401

1 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
(FOR SEAT RESERVATION, CALL 6334639)
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
3 SINBAD
4 THE MEDALLION
5 DADDY DAY CARE
6 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
7 ASBOOBS
8 KALABIT
9 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
10 S.W.A.T.
11 PINAY PIE
12 WWW.XXX.COM

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

9295452

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
2 S.W.A.T.
3 KALABIT
4 PINAY PIE
5 SINBAD
6 DADDY DAY CARE
7 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
8 THE MEDALLION

SM SOUTHMALL

8066888

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
2 S.W.A.T.
3 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
4 DADDY DAY CARE
5 WWW.XXX.COM
6 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
7 ASBOOBS
8 THE MEDALLION
9 PINAY PIE
10 KALABIT

SM CITY CEBU

2313878

1 S.W.A.T.
2 SPY KIDS 3-D
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
4 WWW.XXX.COM
5 SINBAD
6 ASBOOBS
7 PINAY PIE
8 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS

SM CITY ILOILO

3209422

1 MR. BONES
2 RESERVED
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
4 KEKA
5 PINAY PIE
6 SINBAD
7 RESERVED
8 AS BOOBS

SM CITY PAMPANGA

7128015

1 S.W.A.T.
2 DADDY DAY CARE
3 ASBOOBS
4 KALABIT
5 PINAY PIE
6 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT

8294975

1 KALABIT
2 THE MEDALLION
3 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
4 DADDY DAY CARE

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

2514302

1 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
2 MEDALLION
3 ASBOOBS
4 KALABIT

SM CITY DAVAO

2976998

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
2 KALABIT
3 PINAY PIE
4 ASBOOBS
5 SINBAD
6 ITALIAN JOB

SM BICUTAN

776-3055

1 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
2 KALABIT
3 DADDY DAY CARE
4 THE MEDALLION

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

859-2084

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
2 PINAY PIE
3 NAKED WEAPON
4 SINBAD

THE PODIUM CINEMA

18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
633-8978

1 DADDY DAY CARE
11:00 FS/11:10 MF/1:05/3:00/5:05/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:30 END

2 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
11:40 FS/12:10 MF/2:20/4:30/10:35 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:45 END

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THX /All Digital

1 S.W.A.T. 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30 THX
2 THE MEDALLION 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
3 S.W.A.T. 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
4 DADDY DAY CARE 11:00, 12:50, 2:40, 4:30, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00
5 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:50
6 LEGALLY BLONDE 2 10:50, 1:00, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
7 KALABIT 11:00, 1:00, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
8 PINAY PIE 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
9 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
10 SINBAD 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50

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1 THE MEDALLION - 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
2 KALABIT - 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
3 S.W.A.T.- 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
4 DADDY DAY CARE - - 10:10, 12:05, 2:00, 3:55, 5:50, 7:45, 9:40
5 Legally Blonde 2 - 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50, 11:45
6 ASBOOBS 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50, 11:45
7 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

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682-8280

1 DADDY DAY CARE
2 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
3 S.W.A.T.
4 THE MEDALLION
5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
6 ASBOOBS
7 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
8 KALABIT

Novaliches

935-3229 / 31

1 KALABIT
2 S.W.A.T.
3 DADDY DAY CARE
4 THE MEDALLION
5 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
6 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
7 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
8 ASBOOBS

Star Mills (045)875-1927 (045)961-5270	Imus (046)471-8188 / 875-5858
1 DADDY DAY CARE	1 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
2 KALABIT	2 S.W.A.T.
3 KEKA	3 ASBOOBS
4 ASBOOBS	4 THE MEDALLION
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6 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS	6 DADDY DAY CARE

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Non-traditional wedding for Tin-tin and Julius

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

I IMMENSELY enjoyed the food tasting for **Julius Babao** and **Tin-Tin Bersola**'s upcoming wedding reception.

It was held at "Blissful Occasions," the showroom of their caterer Josiah's at 111 One Luna Lifestyle Center Eastwood City. I felt privileged to join the engaged couple since it was just the three of us sampling the yummy treats to be served in their post-nuptial celebration.

Tin-tin beamed: "Julius and I compromised in selecting what dishes will be included. The menu has both his favorites and mine, chicken for him and salmon for me."

They stumbled upon Josiah's by accident. Julius revealed, "Tin has always wanted to use Tiffany chairs when she gets married. These are a type of chairs popularly used for Hollywood parties. So when we came across Josiah's postcard of Tiffany chairs in a bazaar we immediately called them and it turned out that they don't just supply chairs but cater as well so it was a jackpot. Less worries for us because we found a one-stop shop."

Over dinner and in between much laughter, the couple shared their innermost thoughts about their wedding preparations with me.

"It will be a non-traditional wedding in many ways," the blooming bride-to-be gushed.

"I will throw the bouquet as soon as I exit the church. I find it awkward during wedding receptions when they call all single women to come forward to catch the bouquet, and everybody is too shy to get up."

Even in her bridal shower, Tin-tin will not hire the usual macho dancers. "I feel sorry for them," she said.

She will be having four despedida de soltera (hosted by friends, family and Metro magazine) while Julius will just have a stag party to be organized by his colleagues **Erwin Tulfo** and **Edu Manzano**.

The wedding invitation is also the couple's souvenir.

"It will contain memorable pictures of the two of us taken through the years, plus a 10-page mini-booklet that chronicles our love story from day one," said Tin.

She and Julius have been together through the changing headlines of the morning show where their romance blossomed.

I noticed Tin-tin's cute and unique red chili dangling earrings, which she said Julius had bought for her.

"He was teasing me, saying I'm one hot chic when he gave me this pair. I also kidded him that it makes me feel like **Penelope Cruz** in 'Woman on Top' because her favorite ingredient (in the movie where she played a cook) is chili!" said Tin.

But with or without chili or other aphrodisiacs, their wedding will surely be one big bang.

"It's going to be a night of music and romance, complete with a symphony orchestra!" the couple enthused.

In spite of many failed show biz marriages, Julius and Tin remain hopeful that their union will last. "If you get married and you already have that mindset that you will eventually separate, then you are doomed. Just because it happened to other couples, it doesn't mean it will happen to us, too."

I can see that they need not worry about such a negative mindset because right down to their choice of wedding reception menu, they had their mind set only on each other!

'I don't want to be compared . . .'

From page A26

come out in something like an action, a drama or a horror movie, people cannot compare me with my dad. If I do comedy, then that would be inviting comparisons and I don't really want that to happen. I have other things to offer."

He is portraying Will in the latest blockbuster horror-slasher movie of New Line Cinema, "Freddy vs Jason" where Freddy Krueger (Robert Englund) from the popular "Nightmare on Elm Street" faces another killer freak, Jason Voorhees (Ken Kirzinger) who first appeared in 1980s "Friday the 13th."

"My dad was very excited for me when he learned I was doing this movie," the affable, clean-cut Jason revealed. He recalled that his first exposure to Freddy Krueger was "when my dad brought me to see 'Friday the 13th.' It was really cool because I was only 12 or 13 years old and I got to see an R-rated movie. So, I was so excited about it. Plus, my dad also explained to me that 'this was not just killing each other. It's a totally new thing where the ghost killer gets into the brains of the kids to scare them.'

"After watching the movie, we even talked about the scary parts and discussed them. Then it was time to go to bed. That was when I had a nightmare of Freddy and I thought I'm going to die!" Jason admitted. "That was a freaky thing. I'm glad I didn't see it when I was too young. I remember when I saw 'Jaws' when I was only seven or something. I had to sleep with my friend and he had a waterbed. Boy, we just couldn't sleep! Kids simply have such vivid imaginations that they can't just filter through things and distinguish which is real and which is unreal. They just believe everything!" he observed.

Did he ever rebel against his dad?

"Oh yes, I did," he replied. "When my parents got separated in 1991, it got really bad for a while. I just completely separated myself from my dad. So all my anger toward my dad was geared toward my mom since she was always around. However, my mom is such a wonderful person because she dealt with it well all the time.

"It actually happened right when I was becoming a teenager," he continued.

"So it was like, all these hormones and all these stuff together, and then the divorce of your parents. It was just too much for a preteen. But this was exactly what made me identify so much with Will (his character in the Robert Yu-directed 'Freddy vs Jason') because I thought that all those years of my parents' marriage were perfect. Then it turned out that it wasn't. And so basically, my dad and I separated for a long time and I was very inaccessible to him. Then on my first year of college, all of a sudden, I needed to be connected with him again. I thought, I waited too long to fix the relationship and we almost had given up on each other already. Suddenly, I needed him again and my feelings were so strong about a reconciliation with my dad that I even wrote a play about it."

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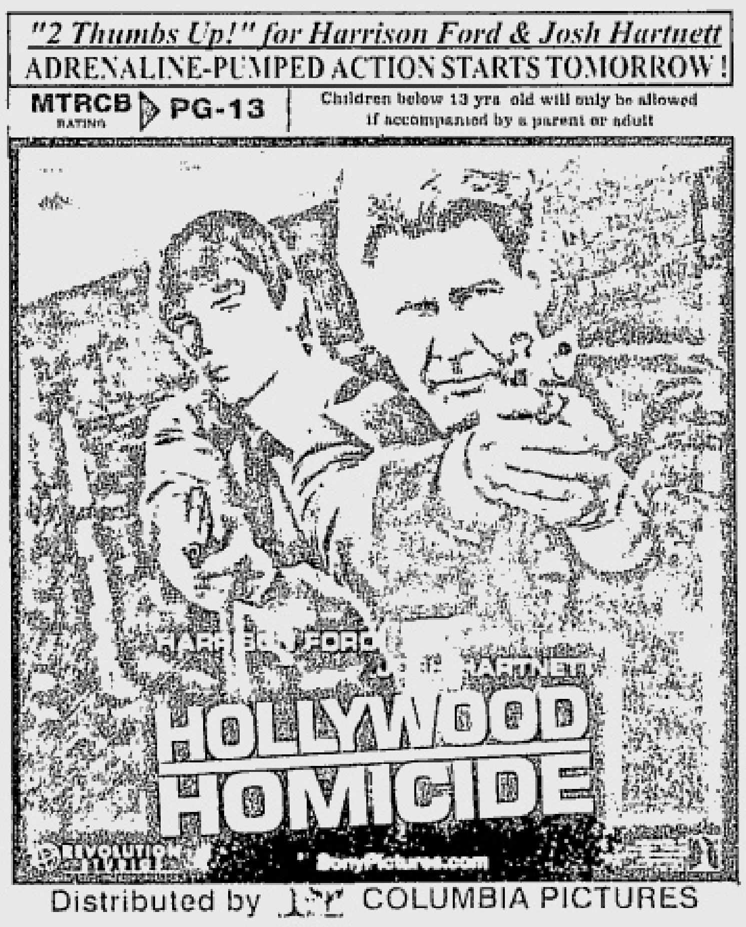

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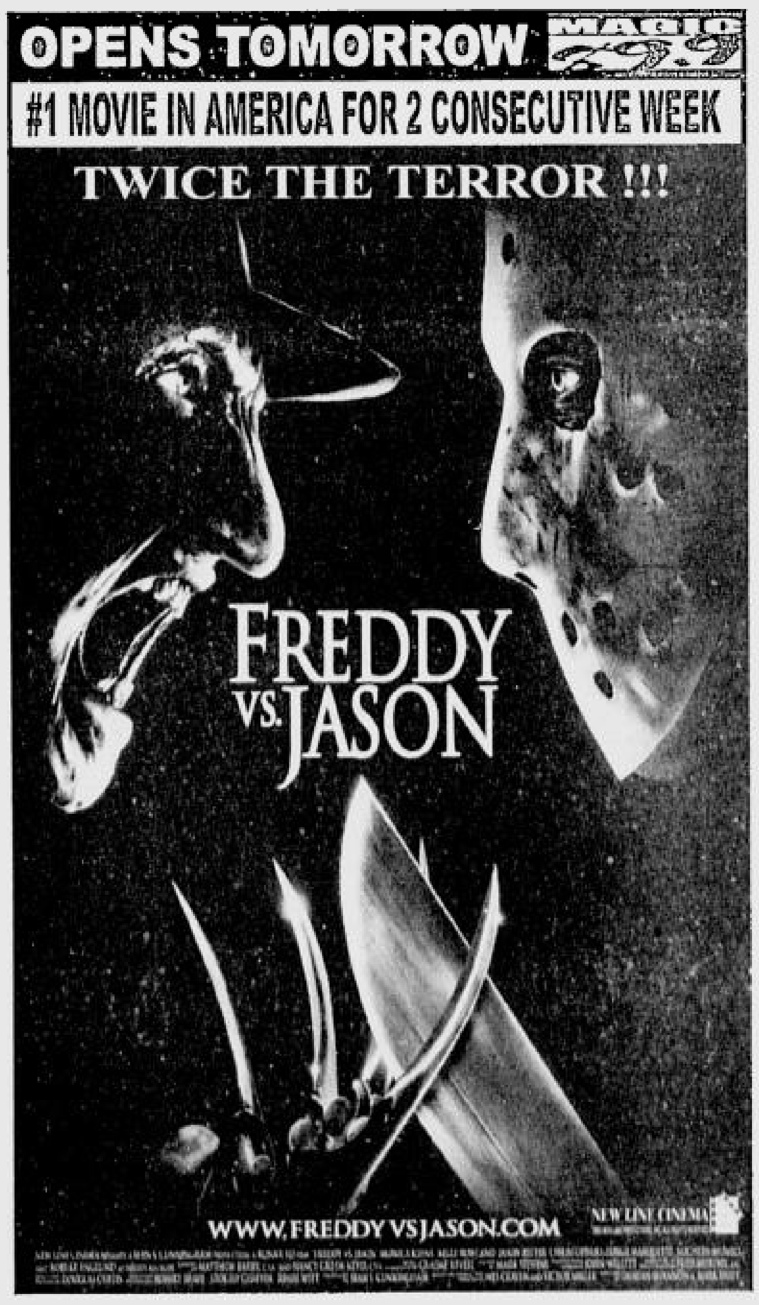

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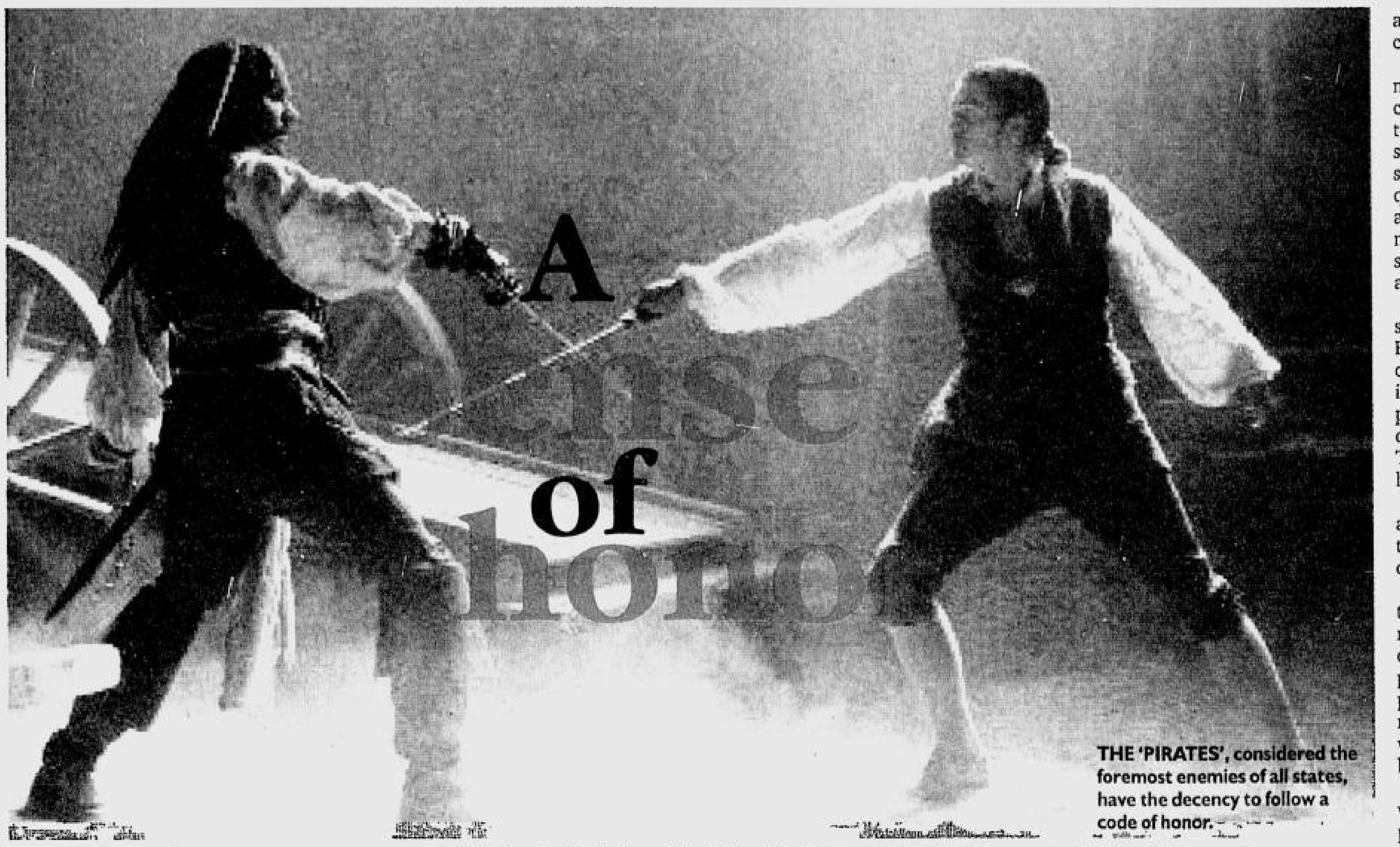


THE 'PIRATES', considered the foremost enemies of all states, have the decency to follow a code of honor.

A sense of honor

By Ruben M. Cruz, Jr.
Contributor

REVIEW

IF THERE ever is an ideal time to watch a movie, it must be today. After a week of hearing and seeing nothing in the news but one accusation of corruption after another, the darkness and illusions offered inside a theatre beckons like an ideal sanctuary for the politically world-weary.

And since the times call for escapism of the highest order, I thought, why not go for the sweeping spectacle of a pirate film?

Ironically, watching "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Legend of the Black Pearl" made me think about what we've been truly missing during these days when the entire country seems stuck in a moral moonscape: a sense of honor.

Even the pirates in this film who are considered the foremost enemies of all states have the decency to follow a code of honor. If only for that, they're so much better than the parade of charlatans in the headlines lately.

In many ways, "Pirates" harks back to a more innocent time, one that I long for now more than ever, when good triumphed over evil, the villains got their comeuppance, the hero got the girl, and there's a happy ending that truly makes everyone happy.

It's the way the world is supposed to work, if only messy realities do not get in the way.

Don't be deceived by its long title, "Pirates" is actually a very straightforward fairy tale, one told with lots of zest, humor and energy. There's plenty of swordplay and, of course, battles at sea, essentially following the blueprint of the rousing swashbuckling genre that is rarely offered in the Hollywood fare we get nowadays.

The film is pretty old-fashioned entertainment, but those too young to know what that means exactly need not worry. I'm sure they'll find the film as enjoyable if not more so than modern action-adventure films, most of which favor high-tech tomfoolery over solid storytelling.

When "Pirates" opens, we find a British ship sailing towards Port Royal, Jamaica. It's the 18th century, and the island holds one of the key British bases in the Caribbean. On board are the monarchy's appointed governor (Jonathan Pryce) and his daughter Elizabeth, a precocious tot who's captivated by stories of pirates.

One of the ship's crew member tells her it's bad luck to be talking about pirates while at sea. Sure enough, they soon encounter a merchant vessel in flames, apparently attacked by a pirate ship. There's only one survivor, a boy by the name of Will Turner, who's barely conscious when they pluck him out of the water. Elizabeth sees a gold doubloon clutched in his hand. She keeps it to protect Will and his secret.

DEPP

BLOOM

Fast-forward a few years. The governor wants Elizabeth (Keira Knightley), now a woman who is as stunning as she is stubborn, to marry the British Navy's head honcho in Port Royal, the straitlaced Commodore Norrington (Jack Davenport). But she's actually in love with Will (Orlando Bloom, Legolas in the "Lord of the Rings" series), whose lowly status as a blacksmith's apprentice prevents him from showing his true feelings for Elizabeth.

All that changes however upon the arrival of Captain Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp) in Port Royal (and what a hilarious arrival it is, so don't miss it), and not long after him, Captain Barbossa (Geoffrey Rush), Sparrow's ex-first mate and now his archenemy.

Barbossa commands the most feared pirate ship of the seas, The Black Pearl, whose cursed crew is after the doubloon in Elizabeth's possession.

That's as far I go with the plot, lest the fairy tale loses some of its bite. The story unravels excellently by itself. And director Gore Verbinski ("The Ring") throws himself and his cast into the proceedings with so much verve that he carries us along with him.

Verbinski and cinematographer Dariusz Wolski also create the perfect look and tone for a pirate film. I can't really explain how they managed to. You've just got to see "Pirates" to realize that they seemed to have hit all the right notes and that the end-product couldn't have been any better.

I mentioned that traditional movie craftsmanship is on full display here. This is especially true at the level of the screenplay (written by Ted Elliot and Terry Rosso), which respects the characters and story and doesn't simply use them as excuses for action sequences. While there's plenty of derring-do and romance to create a great deal of excitement, they're all done with much-appreciated subtlety and sheer wit, and in a very playful atmosphere too.

For instance, there's hardly a kissing scene in the film, but the attraction between Bloom and Knightley is no less than smoldering. One needs only to look at the longing in their eyes and listen to their painfully polite dialogue to be convinced that they can't wait to get their hands on each other. The best sex indeed is sometimes all in the head.

"Pirates" is very sexy but it doesn't have anything a grade-schooler can't watch. Still, the film's romance is electric among the elders.

As far as the action is concerned, except for the CGI rendition of The Black Pearl's supernatural crew, the rest is not dominated by special effects but with those good, old stunts performed by live human beings. The swordplay and fight choreography (between humans and between ships) is a joy to watch, with impressive sets providing a fantastic backdrop to the film.

Even with all the right elements, "Pirates" would have been a far less appealing enterprise if the actors did not nail their roles.

The film strikes gold with the charismatic young lovers, Bloom and the fiery-eyed Knightley, and with the oozing-with-villainy portrayal of Captain Barbossa by Rush.

But this is clearly Depp's film. Captain Sparrow is unlike any pirate you've ever seen, maybe unlike any character even, just as Depp is unlike any actor. He absolutely fills the silver screen with an odd but stylish élan. With shoulder-length hair, kohl-smudged eyes, beaded beard and a slurred speech delivery, Sparrow looks and sounds like a rock star who's had too much of the good stuff. Indeed, I've read that Depp patterned Sparrow after Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones. Only an actor as unconventional as Depp could probably think of such an inspiration. Perhaps he's really a rebellious pirate at heart after all.

There's an infectious air of exuberance as the audience leaves the theatre after a "Pirates" screening. It's the second time I saw the film and there's always the same effect. Maybe just like me, people are all too eager nowadays to lose themselves in the un-cynical world of make believe, if only for a couple of hours. I certainly can't blame them. The ethics of the pirate life in the movie is a whole lot more genuine than that of the real world. That alone is enough to make you want to watch "Pirates" over and over.

Are they or aren't they?

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FOR MONTHS now, rumors about an affair involving Regine Velasquez and Ogie Alcasid have been making the media rounds. At first, the very notion seemed ludicrous—after all, Ogie isn't exactly the diva-slayer type, and Regine's (only) previous romance involved a singer-actor much more debonair than Mr. OA.

But the rumors have persisted, further fanned by the fact that Ogie's wife, Michelle van Eimeren, has taken their kids to live in Australia. Ogie has explained this major move as his family's reaction to the pollution and lack of safety here, but some people aren't totally convinced.

For our part, we don't believe the rumors, and have been wondering why they were floated in the first place. If they aren't true, why would anyone bother to float them?

A few days ago, we learned that Ogie and Regine are co-starring in a movie ("Capt. Barbell") that hopes to make it to the Metro Manila Film Festival this December. Hmmm...

Could this be the reason for the rumors? But some people say that it's the other way around: the Regine-Ogie rumors were in fact what prompted the movie's producer to offer the project to the two stars.

If so, we still don't have a clear answer to the question about why they were floated in the first place.—Unless they're true.—But they're not. So, what to do, or think, or—?!

Perhaps a good way out of this silly mess is for all of us to just decide to refuse to be manipulated by whoever is manipulating this rumor for whatever it's worth to whomever. In other words, duh.

Boob-tube booboos

HOST: When did you come to Manila from the province to try your luck in showbiz?

Guest: Not so long ago—*mga* last year, last year *pa lang*.

(Last year, last year? Ah, two years ago!)

* * *

HOST: Why did you suspect him of being up to no good in your neighborhood? There are so many people—why did you single him out?

Guest: *Kasi kilala ko ang kilos ng mga tao dito. Yung kilos niya, hindi taga-rito.*

* * *

HOST: You have so many talents. What do you like to be called?—are you a singer? An Actor? A dancer?

Guest: You can call it what, it's up to you!

(*Ay*, call it what!)

* * *

HOST: How did you get your fiancée's parents to accept and trust you?

Guest: I approached them openly, no *bola-bola*. Then, I laid down all the tables!

(what about the cards, you forgot the cards!)

* * *

HOST: How can we minimize accidents involving pedestrians crossing the road?

Guest: *Ang payo ko sa mga* pedestrian *diyan, konting ingat sa pagmamaneho!*

(Ano daw?)

* * *

HOST: What's the sports news this morning?

Segment host: *Ibang klaseng* sports action *ang matutungyahan ninyo mamayang hapon!*

(Ay! matutungyahan!)

* * *

HOST: What do you think will be the public's reaction to the new revelations that will be made this week?

Guest: They will *talagang masa*-shock *sila*!

(Promise *ha*?)

* * *

HOST: Why don't they come out with all of your revelations at once, instead of part by part?

Guest: Well, you can say *na* extrategy *nila yun*!

(Ay, extrategy)

* * *

HOST: Where do you live in Metro Manila—a subdivision?

Guest: Yes, it's a new relative place!

(*Lahat ng nakatira doon, kamag-anak?*)

* * *

HOST: People say you married a rich man for financial security.

Guest: Of course not! People who know me know *na simple lang naman ako—kahit sa condo lang ako nakatira, ok lang sa akin*!

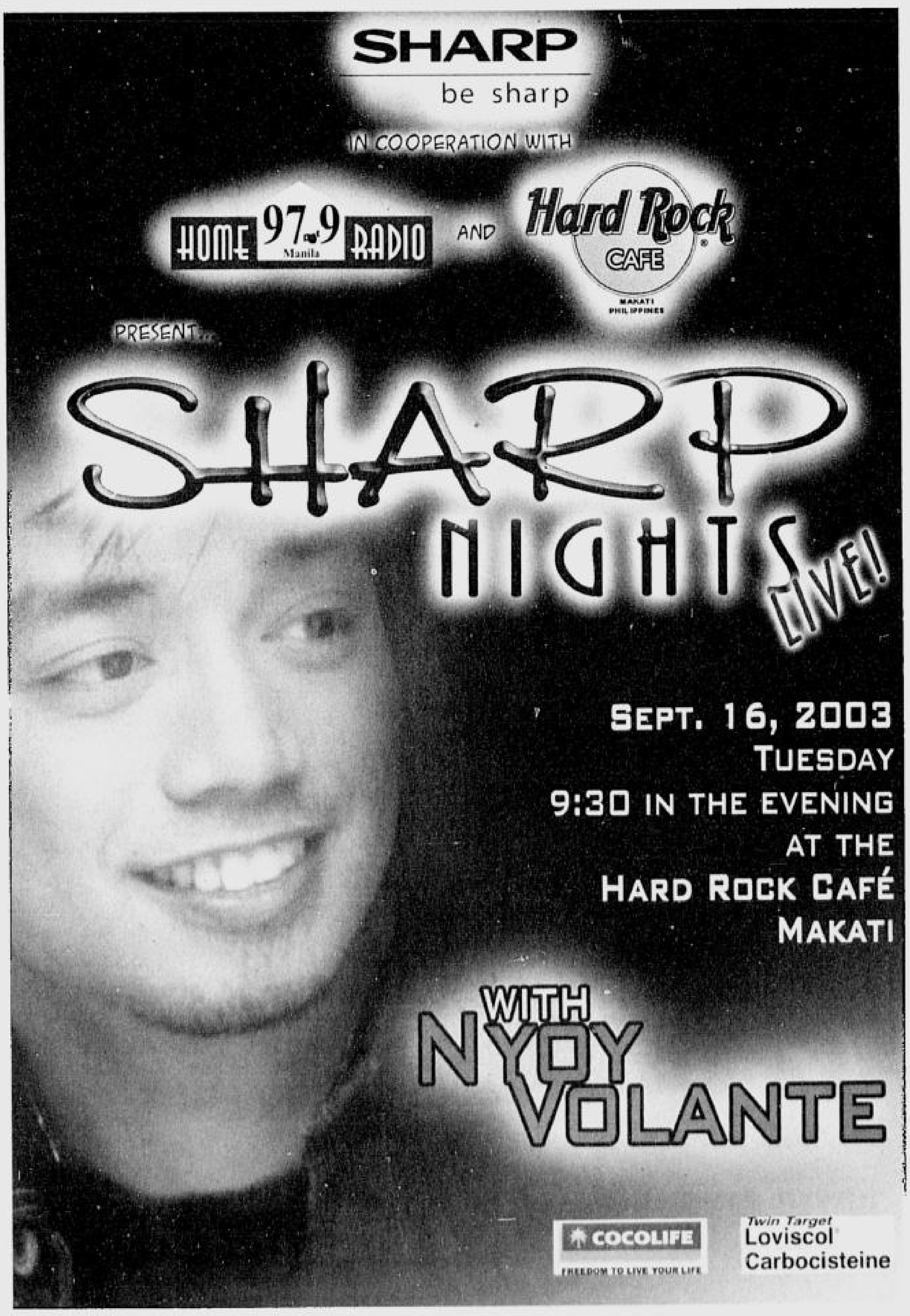
(*Ang yabang mo.*)

* * *

HOST: Speaking of Popeye, spinach is really good for you!

Co-host: For me *naman*, speaking of Popeye, are he and Olive Oyl husbands or wives, or what?

(Duh!)



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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

'I don't want to be compared with my Dad,' says John Ritter's son

By Janet Susan R. Nepales
Contributor

LOS ANGELES—Show business lost a gifted actor-comedian when John Ritter, famous for his funny and lovable character in "Three's Company," recently passed away at the age of 54.

I remember making sure to catch the popular TV series every week when it was shown while I was still living in the Philippines. John never failed to keep me in stitches.

His son Jason Ritter, 23, an actor himself ("Swim Fan," "Mumford"), was at John's deathbed. But Jason, who is the son of John with Nancy Morgan, and the grandson of the famed film cowboy Tex Ritter, is, unlike his late father, a dramatic actor . Not long before John died, Jason spent six or seven hours with his father alone—talking about life, the world, and their dreams.

"We just recently talked for six or seven hours. We just sat somewhere and talked," said Jason during an interview at the Four Seasons Hotel in Los Angeles. "I asked him all the questions that I wanted to ask him and he answered me."

This was about a month ago when I met Jason.

Dressed in a long-sleeved blue shirt with a blue necktie, Jason, who is a graduate of New York University's Tisch School of Arts, is not your typical Hollywood star. He is very polite, gracious, sweet and formal.

He confessed to us during the interview, "I don't want to be compared (with my dad). I believe that every single actor has something different to offer. So, if I

I DON'T/A24

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₱10,000 ticket for bleachers' seat in 'Meteor' stars' concert

By Marinel R. Cruz

A P10,000 ticket given to INQUIRER Entertainment to the concert of the "Meteor Garden" stars led this writer only to a bleachers' chair last Saturday night.

Pandemonium had erupted at the Philsports Football Field where the one-night concert of the wildly popular Taiwanese stars called "The Event" was held. But it could have been the most successful concert this year, if not for the stampede which marred the group's show.

Tickets were sold out. The venue filled to the rafters. The monstrous crowd braved the driving rains.

But eight people were injured. Three of them are still confined at the Medical City Hospital in Mandaluyong.

Many of the estimated 40,000 people who came to watch either complained of stolen cellular phones or of the fact that they failed to get the seats they wanted.

The incident prompted the concert organizer, Big Slim Entertainment Production, to issue a public apology for "difficulties or any inconvenience experienced" during the show.

The concert producer reportedly paid P25 million for the talent fee of "Meteor Garden" stars Vaness Wu, Ken Zhu and Barbie Xu alone, in addition to airfare, accommodation and cost of production.

Vaness and Ken are members of the pop quartet F4 or Flower 4. Jerry Yan and Vic Zhou, who had a show in Taiwan on the same day, complete the group.

Like many motorists who were on their way to Pasig that night, we got stuck in traffic and missed Filipino artists Nina, Kayla and South Border when they started the show at 8:45 p.m.

We also failed to catch Luke Mejares and Bituin Escalante when they sang their version of Lara Fabian's "Broken Vow," the theme song from "Meteor Garden 2."

"Broken Vow," and other songs featured in the series like Eric Carmen's "All By Myself" and Chayanne's "Te Amo," are in "Meteor Garden 2: The Original Soundtrack."

But we got to watch Gary Valenciano sing his hits like "Shout For Joy," "I Will Be Here" and "Hataw Na" to a highly receptive crowd. He also sang Ogie Alcasid's "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw" and a medley of tunes from the '80s before he finally introduced Barbie and her sister, Dee, at 10:30 p.m.

The crowd, now impatient and rain-soaked, went wild when Barbie and Dee emerged from backstage, donning '80s-inspired get ups. They sang three songs, including the "Meteor Garden" theme song "Qing Fei Dei Yi."

Vaness, breathtaking in a powder blue jacket and white hat, sang "Looking for Juliet" and "Body Will Sing," cuts from his "Body Will Sing" album released in Asia late last year.

He called Ken onstage, who played the guitar and sang "Here We Are" and "Love Storm," which is the theme song of his new Taiwanese chinovela with Vic. Vaness joined Ken onstage to sing "As A Friend," the crowd singing along with them even if half of the song is in Mandarin.

Although most of the people who came to watch did not speak Mandarin, all were determined to have fun. And they did, even though they could only share the night with two members of the four-man band.

This early, F4 fans are looking forward to seeing Vaness and Ken again in March next year, this time with Jerry and Vic.

KEN

VANESS

PETRON Ultron
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OFW remittances hit $4.52B in end-July

By Clarissa S. Batino

CLOSE to eight million Filipino nurses, IT experts, domestic helpers and seafarers abroad sent $4.52 billion back home in the first seven months, an increase of 6 percent from $4.26 billion in the same period last year.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said he was counting on increased OFW remittances this year to offset the slowdown in foreign direct investments and sluggish exports.

The BSP said the third quarter was usually slow for OFW remittances, which normally peak during the Christmas season to the early months of the following year and again during school-payment months of May and October.

In July, remittances stood at $641 million or 4.75 percent lower than the previous year's $673 million. Month-on-month, however, dollar inflow from overseas workers rose 8.6 percent from $591 million in June.

OFW remittances are counted on to boost the supply of dollars in the spot market and help keep the peso stable. Since July, offshore remittances have been coming in trickles and, combined with the lower receipts from exports, the peso had been weak.

The local currency closed at 54.965 to $1 from 54.99 last Friday.

From a forecast of a flat growth, the BSP said it was now expecting overseas remittances to improve by 6 percent this year to about $7.6 billion from $7.2 billion in 2002. The rosier scenario was for OFW inflow to hit the $8-billion mark.

The government said deployment of Filipino workers overseas has slowed down compared to the previous year. The number of new hires and rehires dropped for land-based workers.

However, the central bank said the slowdown appeared to have affected mostly the low-income workers like domestic helpers as the number of caregivers, engineers, performing artists and other high-paying jobs actually increased.

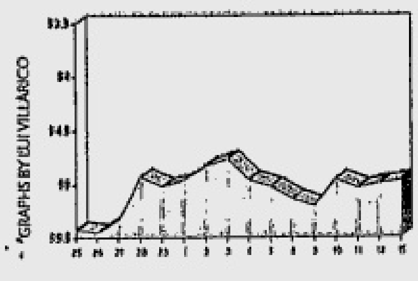
The growth in remittances could be maintained as more Filipinos leave for high-paying jobs, a BSP official said.

The level of dollar remittances has picked up from the observed slowdown during the first few months of 2003 when prospects of employment abroad became less attractive due to uncertainties caused by the US-Iraq war, which was followed by the outbreak of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) virus.

While both concerns have eased, deployment this year remained lower compared to 2002, according to the labor department.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 54.965 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 15, 2003

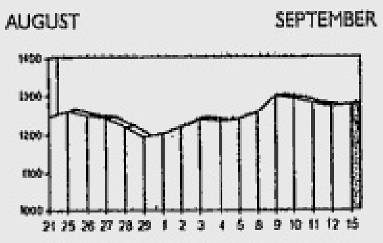
¥ 117.06 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 12, 2003

GOLD: $376.30-376.80
per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 15, 2003

STOCK MARKET

Stocks rebound

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARES rebounded slightly yesterday after three straight days of losses, helped by select buying of blue chips such as conglomerate Ayala Corp., traders said.

The country's second-largest phone firm Globe Telecom was the most heavily traded issue, accounting for about 55 percent of total turnover.

The Philippine stock index climbed 5.10 points or 0.40 percent to close at 1,278.09 points, the day's high. The market's year-to-date gains now stand at 25.50 percent.

Turnover jumped to P926.56 million against P324.61 million on Friday. Gainers were in near equilibrium with losers, 23 to 22, with 40 issues unchanged.

Traders said some players were waiting for third-quarter earnings reports before committing more funds to equities.

"The market is in consolidation and will be moving sideways," said Allan Araullo, vice president at Regina Capital Development Corp.

"People are just waiting for cues...they need to see third-quarter earnings numbers to fuel interest." Araullo said the market was likely to stay within the 1,260 to 1,300 point range in the main index, with support seen at the 1,180 mark if it starts to trend lower.

Ayala Corp., a favorite pick for foreign investors, gained 1.16 percent or five centavos to P4.35.

Reuters

T-bill yields rise slightly; bank loans up 3.7% in July

TREASURY bill rates rose modestly in yesterday's auction after the government accepted some of the bids to align domestic interest rates to the secondary market yields and let some steam off a jittery financial market.

Traders said the appetite for government securities remained strong despite the 3.7-percent year-on-year growth in commercial bank lending in July. As of end-July, outstanding loans stood at P1.43 trillion.

While the government remained the biggest borrower from banks, the central bank said private sector borrowing had been gradually recovering although growth in lending slowed from 5.1 percent in June.

The benchmark 91-day treasury bill rate went up 10 basis points to 5.325 percent from its yield a month ago. The Bureau of Treasury rejected all bids during the Sept. 1 auction.

The 182-day rate rose by 14.4 basis points to 6.511 percent while the 364-day yield went up by 19.3 basis points to 7.098 percent.

The peso recovery also took away one reason for banks to bid up the rates although the market said the higher-than-programmed deficit in August was a factor in the higher offers.

Deputy Treasurer Mina Figueroa said the auction committee decided to accept the reasonable bids to align the primary to secondary market rates. The prevailing secondary market rates are 5.93 percent for three months, 6.3 percent for six months and 7.79 percent for one-year paper.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said allowing domestic interest rates to go up mildly would increase the yields for foreign investors and entice more portfolio funds to flock to the local market.

Figueroa denied the government was pressed for cash so it accepted P8.29 billion yesterday against the total auction volume of

T-BILL/ B2

Top 5000 firms post 29% profit increase in 2002

By Elena R. Torrijos

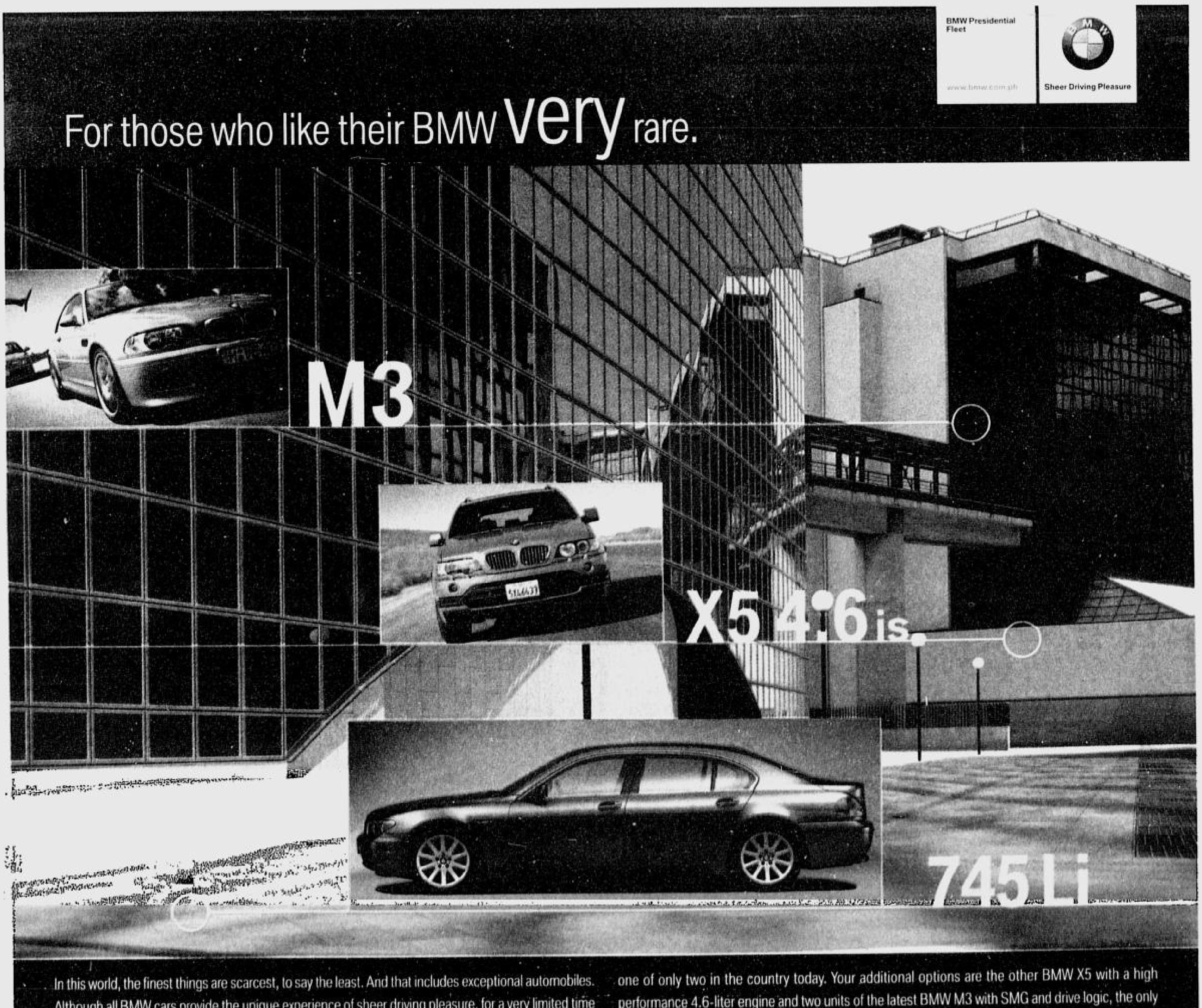
THE COUNTRY'S top 5000 companies posted a 28.58-percent rise in profit in 2002 to P152.72 billion from P188.77 billion the previous year.

The sectors that saw higher profit were banking, real estate, renting, business services and wholesale and retail trade.

The top 5000 corporations posted higher profit last year despite a 1.64-percent decline in total revenue to P3.688 trillion from P3.75 trillion in 2001.

In a statement, the SEC attributed the revenue drop to the combined effects of the El Niño, the government's burgeoning fiscal deficit, slower export growth arising from the continued weakness in the global economy, and uncertainties arising from the war in Afghanistan

TOP/ B2



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A question of tacks

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

I WAS waiting in Mercury Drug for my maintenance dose of Viagra when the man in front of me asked for a box of condoms. The cashier said, "That will be P52 including tax." "Tacks! Tacks! I thought they stayed on by themselves!"

There are certainly some weird people around. I received an e-mail stating, "My wife and I have a genetic problem which renders us both sterile. Is there any possibility that we might pass this on to our children?"

The agent for F4 called me on Friday asking me to join the group. I suppose they wanted to add a touch of glamour but I had to decline because I have a sore throat. There is something wrong with my keyboard. Every time I press F4, I get Taiwanese music, and when I go to F1, the help key, I get the Beatles LP. I know the package included multimedia but this is ridiculous.

The deliberations of the Senate over Iggy Arroyo are being shown on America's Funniest Home Videos. Apart from winning the $10,000 prize, the program has knocked Jay Leno and David Letterman completely out of the ratings. It has been voted the funniest film since the Marx Brothers made "A Night at the Oprah." For those not familiar with the trio, they were called Zeppo, Groucho and Karl. Karl Marx was buried in England but it was a communist plot.

A termite walked into a bar and asked the man behind, "Is this bar tender?"

My 6-year-old daughter, who is top in English, said "I is." "No! No!" shouted the teacher. You should say, "I am." Without missing a beat, she continued, "I am the ninth letter in the alphabet." Exit one embarrassed teacher.

For those who have read the legends of King Arthur, here is a conundrum. If Queen Guinevere put out to Lancelot, how much do you think Sir Gallahad?

There are 4 stages in a couple's sex life:

Under 30 - tri-weekly
Under 40 - try weekly
Under 50 - try weakly
60 plus - try

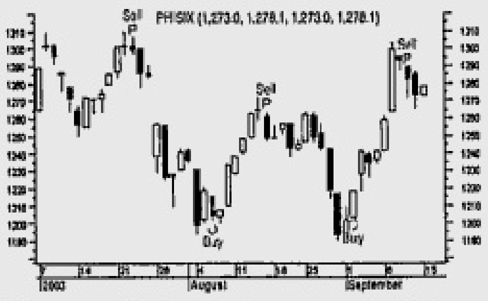
To make sex puns, you have to be a cunning linguist.

Metro Manila is spending P100 million on overpasses. In Israel, they are called Passover.

* * *

I FEEL inspired this week as if I have been touched by an angel. Certainly, my calls on the market have been unbelievable these past two months. If you look at the chart, I can assure you that the arrows were not inserted by me, but by my computer program. Having noticed that it had correctly identified every market top and bottom, I decided to put it into practice.

On Aug. 14th, I sent out an ALERT to all subscribers at 10 a.m., telling them to close all their trading positions and cash out. The PHISIX was 1272 and the degree of risk was 97. A few people who happened to be on line sold, but most did not read the detailed newsletter until 4 p.m. They sold first thing next day and the index fell to 1190, a decline of 82 points. Two weeks later, on a Friday, I sent out a 5-page newsletter showing that the degree of risk on the PHISIX was down to 5, and on many stocks, including SMPH at P5.40, it was zero. So, I sent out a BUY signal at 1192.



Over the next seven trading days, during which time the index rose six times, the PHISIX soared to 1303 and the degree of risk reached 97, and on TEL at P660, it was 100. So I sent out a SELL signal and over the next three days, the index fell 7, 10 and 9 points. I cannot tell you what the risk factor is currently (subscribers object) but I have given the probable scenario for this week, in advance. I can tell you that I do not expect the index to fall back to 1190 but to stabilize at a higher level. The next BUY signal is likely to come while the degree of risk is in the neutral zone, and could break the 1308 double top. Study the chart. Its accuracy is amazing.

I have not been trading because of my blood pressure problem, which is unlikely to go away despite medication. So I am looking for an assistant who can write the newsletter whenever I am not well. To date, I have only missed one edition in five years, when I was undergoing an MRI scan on my kidneys, and I have not had a holiday for six years. The successful applicant must have an excellent knowledge of technical analysis and a good grounding in fundamental analysis and economics. He must be able to write clearly and concisely, and should be experienced in trading. Passing the PSE examination would be an advantage. If anyone is interested, write to me at length and send your CV.

The newsletter contains not only the degree of risk on the PHISIX but also 30 active stocks, which I update daily, a monumental task. Age is beginning to tell and I really need to slow down. On Mondays, not only do I have to produce the newsletter but also the INQUIRER article as well. The newsletter does not contain jokes or puns. It is sophisticated and not suitable for beginners or anyone who trades less than P100,000 per order. It is ideal for Fund Managers and active traders who want to make money scientifically. You can trade through your own broker as I am not looking for clients.

* * *

THE NON-PERFORMING loans of the banks have risen again. The banks had a special Act passed, allowing them to sell their bad debts to foreign buyers en bloc. They were hoping for a 30-percent discount but were offered a 70-percent discount. This they could not accept, as it would mean writing-off a large chunk of their capital. So they are stuck. PNB, which has by far the largest percentage of bad loans, has the right idea and has been conducting public auctions, as a result of which they have raised P2.4 billion.

What the banks should do is to open a property sales desk in their major branches at one-mile interval. Estate agents, who get paid on commission, would have all available properties within a radius of 3 miles. So, if you want a property in Alabang, you go to the main office in that area. If the banks would offer clean titles at 25 percent below market value, I am sure that there would be plenty of buyers. It would take time but the banks would only suffer modest losses and the public would be eager buyers. Everyone would benefit from this arrangement.

mrbearbull@hotmail.com

Top 5000 firms post 29% profit increase . . .

From page B1

and the run-up to the Iraq war.

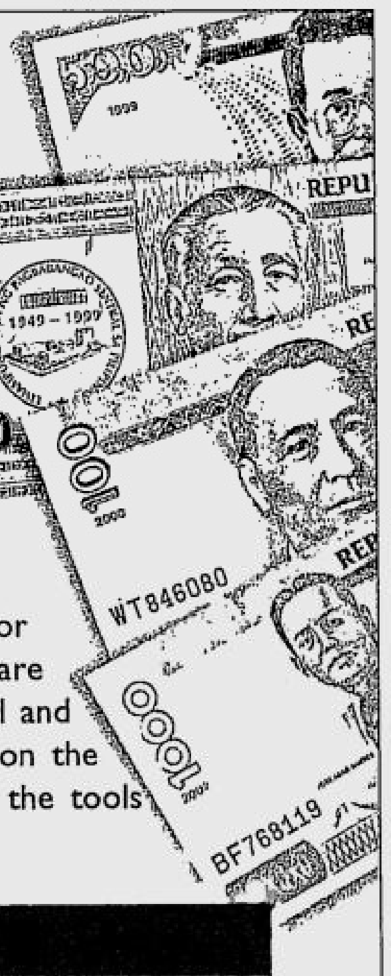
During the launching of the Philippines Top 5000 Directory for 2003, a joint-publication of the corporate watchdog and CIBI Information Inc., SEC Chair Lilia Bautista noted: "Overall, the performance of the top 5000 corporations has been mixed, with some industries riding the global economic trough better than others."

Only four industries reported an increase in both revenue and profit: mining and quarrying; wholesale and retail trade; real estate renting and business activities; and other community, social and personal services.

Meanwhile, fishing, manufacturing, electricity, gas and water supply, transport, storage and communications, health and social work, and public administration and defense failed to share in the overall increase in profit last year.

Economist Cayetano Paderanga, CIBI president and chief executive, explained that profit of the top 5000 firms was higher in 2002 even though revenue declined because it appeared that companies had lower expenses.

"The cost structure has changed," he said.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T-bill...

From page B1

P9.5 billion (P4 billion for 91-day, P2.5 billion for 182-day and P3 billion for 364-day treasuries).

"We have a strong cash position. In fact, the government is studying if we can further reduce the size of the bills and bonds for sale in October and November," the deputy treasurer said. All auctions for December have been cancelled.

Figueroa said appetite for the three-month treasuries weakened after the BSP scrapped its tiering scheme and started paying a flat 6.75-percent rate on all bank deposits.

The BSP said bank lending has sustained its modest growth since September last year.

The central bank saw increased lending to the farm sector, social and personal services, utilities, wholesale and retail trade, and manufacturing. Together, these sectors accounted for about 70 percent of the total outstanding loans of commercial banks.

Private sector credit grew 4.1 percent as of July while public sector borrowings rose 8.7 percent.

"Strong consumer spending and steady pick-up in manufacturing activity helped boost private demand for bank credit," Buenaventura said in a statement.

Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Monday, Sept. 15, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4	4	4	4	5,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	227,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43	43	43	43	1,887,000
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	3,890
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	33.5	34	33.5	34	29,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	29.5	30.5	29.5	29.5	166,900
Philippine National Bank	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	1,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.5	19,300
Security Bank Corp.	19	19	19	19	10,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.2	1.2	157,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1690	1690	1690	1690	1,640
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	30,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1200	1210	1200	1210	1,710
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24.75	24.75	24.5	24.75	20,900
Globe Telecom Inc.	690	690	690	690	738,840
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	400,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	3	3	50,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.61	0.61	0.61	.61	690,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	10,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	625	630	620	620	78,730
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	20,400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	14	14	14	14	53,800
Manila Electric Co. B	22	22	21.75	21.75	243,600
Petron Corp.	1.96	1.98	1.96	1.98	2,696,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.75	2.75	2.7	2.75	8,754,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	210,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	140,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	16,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31	31	31	31	166,300
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.75	18	17.75	17.75	1,476,000
RFM Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	60,000
San Miguel Corp. A	53	54	53	54	95,700
San Miguel Corp. B	63	63	62.5	63	54,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	10,000
Ayala Corp.	4.35	4.4	4.35	4.35	6,057,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	21,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.033	0.033	0.032	.032	2,500,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	6,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.78	1.7	1.78	27,000
ATR Kim Eng Fin. Corp.	2	2.26	2	2.26	30,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	60,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.57	0.58	11,510,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.145	.145	1,250,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.085	0.085	0.085	.085	1,000,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.26	0.24	0.25	3,540,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	18.25	18.5	18.25	18.25	122,800
Global Business Hldgs Inc.	55	55	55	55	100
Global Equities Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	30,000
Ionics Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.34	1.34	639,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	20,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	90,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.89	.9	1,930,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.27	.27	200,000
Music Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	870,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.24	.24	1,600,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.02	1.06	1.02	1.06	140,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	970,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	200,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1	1	1	1	50,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	.08	700,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	1,680,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	.3	80,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.42	0.51	0.42	.51	80,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.15	0.17	0.15	.16	870,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	25	25	25	25	9,700
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.001	0.001	0.001	.001	2,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.6	3,178,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	220,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.185	0.185	0.18	.18	2,770,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	10,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	610,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	.45	80,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	1,088,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	400,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.03	0.03	0.03	.03	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6	6	6	6	21,130,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.185	0.195	0.185	0.195	200,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.28	0.28	0.28	.28	20,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.31	0.31	0.31	.31	400,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	5,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	.0036	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	22,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.2	0.2	0.2	.2	10,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.16	0.16	0.16	.16	200,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P) (P)
Bank & Fin Svc	2,539,940	99,196,095.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	80,740,470	677,307,230.00
PRO	29,586,000	149,578,570.00
Mining	620,000	166,800.00
OIL	29,210,000	129,600.00
GRAND TOTALS :	142,696,410	926,378,295.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	436.90	UP 1.24
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,855.15	UP 7.76
PRO	569.71	UP 0.93
Mining	1,230.86	DOWN 6.02
OIL	1.35	DOWN 0.05
All Shares Index	802.79	UP 3.73
Composite	1,278.09	UP 5.10

DISCLOSURES

ELECTED officers of **SQL Wizard Inc.** were Enrique Pelaez, chair; Alberto Hermoso Jr., president and managing director; Antonio Lasala, chief finance officer and assistant corporate secretary; Heraldina Salonga, treasurer and marketing director and Ana Maria Katigbak, corporate secretary. Lasala and Carmencita Quilnet were designated corporate information officers.

***

ELECTED directors of **Export and Industry Bank Inc.** were Jose Antonio, Josue Camba Jr., Dionisio Carpio Jr., Benjamin Castillo, Sai Chong Cheng, Reynaldo David, Donald Dee, Paterno Dizon, Francis Lee, David Ng, Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., Pauline Tan, Victor Te, Oscar de Venecia, Charles Wong Say Hing, Alfredo Yao, Jeffrey Yao and Hermenegildo Zayco.

***

MONDRAGON International Philippines Inc. moved its annual stockholders' meeting to March 15, 9 a.m. at the Mondragon House Ballroom, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City.

***

UNIVERSAL Rightfield Property Holdings Inc. adjourned its annual stockholders' meeting last Sept. 12 due to lack of quorum. Company president Jose Merin instead held a briefing for the shareholders who attended the meeting.

***

BANK of the Philippine Islands confirmed that no agreement has been reached with foreign investors for the sale of its foreclosed assets. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

September 15, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.891583452	1	55.057
Japan	Yen	0.007615	0.008541	0.4702
United Kingdom	Pound	1.420025	1.5927	87.6893
Hongkong	Dollar	0.114322	0.128223	7.0596
Switzerland	Franc	0.644814	0.723223	39.8185
Canada	Dollar	0.652076	0.731368	40.2669
Singapore	Dollar	0.509622	0.571592	31.4701
Australia	Dollar	0.585682	0.656901	36.167
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.365005	2.65259	146.0436
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.237756	0.266667	14.6819
Brunei	Dollar	0.50817	0.569963	31.3805
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000106	0.000119	0.0066
Thailand	Baht	0.022096	0.024783	1.3645
UAE	Dirham	0.242767	0.272287	14.9913
Euro	Euro	1	1.1216	61.7519
Argentina	Peso	0.303777	0.340716	18.7588
Brazil	REAL	0.306913	0.344234	18.9525
Denmark	Kroner	0.134745	0.15113	8.3208
India	Rupee	0.019501	0.021872	1.2042
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.234659	0.263193	14.4906
Mexico	Peso	0.081546	0.091462	5.0356
New Zealand	Dollar	0.518272	0.581294	32.0043
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015465	0.017346	0.955
Korea	Won	0.000762	0.000855	0.0471
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026223	0.029412	1.6193

Napocor needs $1.2B in new loans next year

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE CASH-STRAPPED National Power Corp. will need $1.2 billion in foreign borrowings to finance capital expenditures and settle its maturing obligations in 2004.

Given the difficulty of the state-owned power firm to borrow for itself, the national government may end up raising the requirement of Napocor on top of its $1.8-billion offshore financing requirement next year.

The combined $3-billion external financing program of the national government and Napocor is only half of the $6 billion that the central bank wanted the administration to borrow in 2004.

Otherwise, the dollar requirement will be drawn from the reserves or from the local market. The first strategy will deplete the gross international reserves, which stood at $16 billion as of end-August, while both schemes will weaken the peso.

This year, Napocor also needed to raise $1.2 billion in fresh borrowings.

For the rest of the year, Napocor needs to borrow only $250 million after the government relent $750 million from the proceeds of the 10-year global bonds sold in July. In March, the utility sold about $400 million in zero coupon bonds and received about $250 million in proceeds.

"As much as possible, we would like Napocor to borrow on its own. It has to sell its own name and under its own credit," National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said.

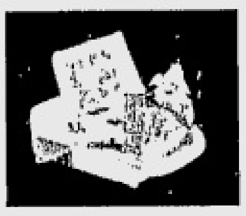
Napocor was supposed to tap the global bond market for $500 million in June but withdrew after investors again sought a much higher premium for the borrowing to to perceived higher risks. In the first half, the power firm already posted P34 billion in losses.

Buyers of Napocor bonds are asking for an additional premium of 1-1.5 percentage points over the spread on other sovereign debt papers.

Edeza declined to comment on any foreign borrowing of the national government but said that a deal to complete its remaining $225-million requirement for the year could be clinched between now and October.

Pre-funding for next year would be covered by a different bond issue later this year to avoid incurring expensive carrying cost for funds the government would use in 2004, he said.

"We are looking at the dollar and euro markets for the bond issue," Edeza said.



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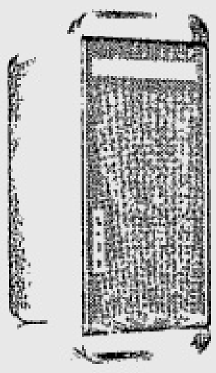

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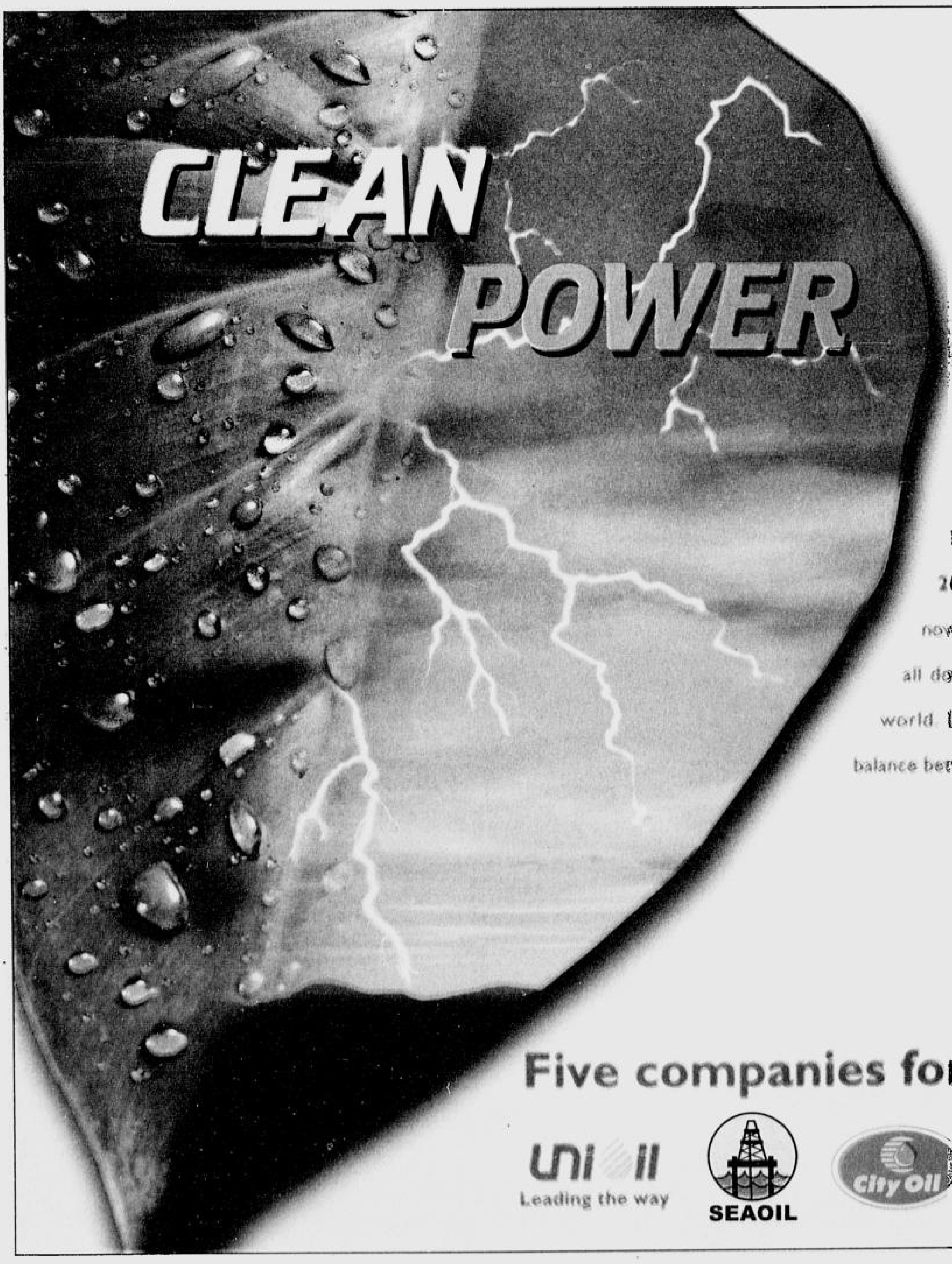

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Thailand raises growth target

BANGKOK—Thailand posted healthy economic growth in the second quarter despite SARS and it seemed set to outperform most major Asian economies this year and next, as shoppers continued to splurge on consumer items such as cars and phones.

Thailand's gross domestic product grew a modest but faster-than-expected 0.9 percent in the second quarter, from the previous three months, despite the damage suffered by the tourism sector due to the SARS outbreak, a state agency said.

The National Economic and Social Development Board said in a statement that Thailand would outperform all major Asian economies except China this year with GDP expanding by 5.8-6.2 percent, up from a previous projection of 4.5-5.5 percent.

Thailand's resilient economic performance was achieved despite a 40-percent drop in tourist arrivals in the second quarter, compared with the same period last year.

While Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) affected few people in Thailand, problems in nearby countries such as China, Singapore and Vietnam put holidaymakers off Southeast Asia.

The economy expanded year-on-year by 5.8 percent in the last quarter, down from 6.7 percent in the previous three months.

"The SARS impact shaved about 2.5 percent off the second quarter headline GDP growth. Without the outbreak, I reckon that Q2 GDP growth would have been more than 8 percent," said economist Christa Janjic of investment bank UBS in Singapore.

Thailand's economy is being driven by a government-inspired consumption boom, aided by strong growth in farming incomes.

The state agency said the economy was likely to grow 6.5-8.5 percent in 2004 if exports maintained double-digit growth.

"We managed to post the second-highest positive growth after China in Q2, even though expansion moderated from Q1 due to SARS and weaker demand in and outside the country," the agency's Secretary-General, Chakramon Phasukavanich, told reporters.

Average hotel occupancy rate fell to 41.1 percent during the second quarter from 65.4 percent in the previous three months, the agency said. Tourism made up six percent of GDP last year.

First-quarter growth was revised to a seasonally adjusted 1.3 percent rise.

The data topped market expectations. A Reuters poll of 14 economists last week found an average forecast of 5.2 percent GDP growth for the second quarter from a year earlier and 5.5 percent growth for 2003.

"The Q2 data are quite healthy and better than expected, which should send most research houses back to raise projections for the whole year," said Nuchjarin Kasemsukworarat of SCB Securities.

Janjic of UBS said the second-quarter growth was impressive as it was powered largely by consumption.

Household spending rose 6 percent during the second quarter from the same period a year ago, although that was down from 6.5 percent growth in the first quarter.

Reuters

Yuan float may hurt China's debt rating

SINGAPORE—International ratings agency Standard & Poor's said on Monday that a flotation of China's currency would be dangerous and could damage the country's debt rating.

S&P said the Chinese banking system was insolvent and ill-equipped to handle volatility in the exchange rate. Any move to a floating currency would also hurt the ratings of local banks, it said in a statement.

China's yuan, also known as the renminbi, is effectively pegged to the US dollar around 8.28 yuan, a level that has been criticized by Japanese, US and European policymakers as too weak and not reflecting recent strong growth in China's economy.

"Despite increasing pressure on China by its trade partners, including the US and Japan, to revalue its currency, preferably by allowing the Chinese renminbi to float, Standard and Poor's considers that lifting of exchange controls at the moment could be risky because Chinese banks are ill-equipped to handle volatility in the exchange rate," said Ping Chew, S&P's China analyst.

China's long-term foreign currency debt is rated BBB by S&P with a positive outlook.

Reuters

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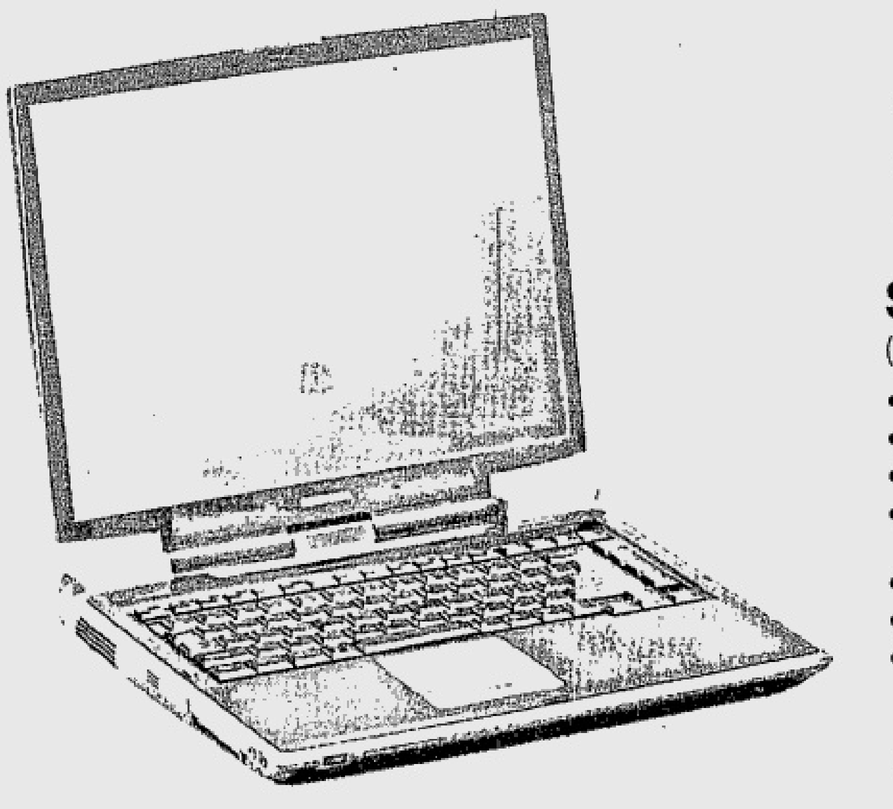

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Opec planning to invite Iraq to Sept. 24 meet

DOHA—Opec president Abdullah al-Attiyah said yesterday he would contact Iraq's new oil minister about attending the producer group's meeting next week.

Opec has previously said it would only invite Iraqi Oil Minister Ibrahim Bahr al-Uloum to its meeting in Vienna on Sep. 24 if the United Nations recognizes Iraq's US-backed Governing Council.

"I'll be calling him today ... and I'm going to discuss everything with him," Attiyah told reporters on the sidelines of an energy conference. "Opec cannot ignore Iraq." Iraq, a founding member of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), has been barred from meetings since the US-led invasion this year.

But Baghdad's US-appointed Governing Council won a diplomatic victory when Arab League foreign ministers agreed to let a council delegate represent Baghdad at their talks last week in Cairo.

That sets a precedent in determining whether the council will be allowed to fill Iraq's seat at future league meetings, and in other bodies such as the United Nations and Opec.

The Opec chief said he was planning to travel to Iraq, which has been exempt from the cartel's quota system for more than a decade due to UN sanctions imposed on Baghdad after its invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

"In the near future I'll visit Iraq, but I want to give him (Uloum) some time," said Attiyah, also oil minister of Qatar.

Iraq now has a production capacity of two million barrels per day (bpd), with a target of three million bpd early next year.

Reuters

HP to invest $200M for China unit expansion

SHANGHAI—US computer and IT giant Hewlett-Packard Co. expects to invest $200 million to expand its information technology services business in China by 2007, a senior executive said on Monday.

"You're probably looking at, easily, around $200 million...(over) the next five years," Siaou-Sze Lien, senior vice president for HP Services Asia Pacific, told Reuters, adding that the investments should be completed by 2007.

HP Services is the software solutions arm of a computer server vendor whose businesses range from personal computers to printers.

Reuters

Boeing faces $1B in liability claims

NEW YORK—Boeing Co. could face as much as $1 billion in liability claims if insurers pursue the aerospace company for expenses related to problem-plagued solar panels for six commercial satellites, the Wall Street Journal reported on Monday, citing industry officials.

Insurance officials attending a Paris aerospace industry conference said they were considering taking action against Boeing to help recover costs stemming from aircraft malfunctions, though no final decisions to file suit have been made, the Journal reported.

Such a court action would mark the first time insurance executives have pursued a top satellite maker over satellite quality-control problems, said the newspaper.

A Boeing representative was not immediately available to comment to Reuters.

Reuters

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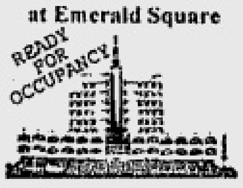

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CONDO MKT 1BR 9275260

MANDALUYONG

2br Condo Wack'15T 09189242622

PASIG

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All-in Flfurn 105m² 412-1825

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2BR APT w/TEL ESPANA
cor MIGUELIN nr UST
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Apt 7841746/6682108

Unit W/1 & 2 BRMS 5630401

QUEZON CITY

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HOUSE & LOT

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CARS

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CARS

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Van 0917-6626993 • 6421840

VANS/CAR 741-1356

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2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

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Republic of the Philippines
Regional Trial Court of Manila
National Capital Judicial Region
Branch 34

IN RE: PETITION FOR THE
CORRECTION OF ENTRY IN THE
GENDER OF HEREIN PETITIONER
APPEARING ON HER BIRTH
CERTIFICATE

CARMENCITA PADER CANAPI-LACHICA
Petitioner
-versus- SP. PROC. NO. 03-107568
THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR FOR
THE CITY OF MANILA,
Respondent.
x-------------------------------x

ORDER

This is a verified petition filed by the Petitioner through counsel praying among other things that after due notice, publication and hearing an Order be rendered directing the Local Civil Registrar of the City of Manila to correct the wrong gender entry appearing in her birth certificate from male to female

Finding the Petition to be sufficient in form and substance, let the petition be set for hearing on October 23, 2003 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning before this Branch at Room 546, 5th Floor, Manila City Hall. All interested parties are hereby notified of said hearing and are ordered to show cause why the Petition should not be granted.

Let a copy of this Order be published at the expense of the petition, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks, in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Manila, to be chosen the raffle pursuant to P.D. No. 1079.

Furnish the Office of the Solicitor General and Civil Registrar of Manila copies of the Petition and of this Order.

SO ORDERED.

Manila, Philippines, August 20, 2003.

(Sgd.) ROMULO A. LOPEZ
Judge

(PDI--Sept. 9, 16 & 23, 2003)

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WANTED: Medtech 746-1537

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TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY SCREENING AND TO BID

Date: September 10, 2003
Contract No. BCMD.2003-003

1. Contract No.: BCMD.2003-003 Supply and Delivery of A New Multi-Role, Single-Engine Helicopter
2. The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall consist of supplying and delivering a new multi-role, single-engine helicopter to TRANSCO.
3. The Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid is P83,000,000.00.
4. Application for Eligibility is open to Filipino and Foreign manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, firms and contractors who have the legal technical and financial requisites of the contract to be bid
5. Application for Eligibility shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by TRANSCO in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the contractor's offer to the contract under bidding subject to Post qualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.
6. Eligibility Documents will be available for issuance on September 12, 2003 at the Bids and Contract Management Department, Ground Floor, Power Center, BIR Road Corner Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1104. Telefax No.: 921-23-08 upon presentation of letter of intent and a payment of non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 per copy.
7. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Forms, documents and statements shall be on or before October 6, 2003 and shall be submitted at the registration office and address mentioned above. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
8. Manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, firms and contractors, not yet included in the TRANSCO's List of Registered Contractors, who wishes to participate in the public bidding, in order to facilitate eligibility check/screening, are requested to register with the registration office mentioned above by submitting the following basic requirements, duly notarized, which should be maintained current and updated at least once a year. A Certificate of Registration will be issued to contractors/suppliers upon approval.

    Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) business name registration or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration certificate, as appropriate;
    Mayor's permit and/or municipal license for the current year;
    Taxpayer's Identification Number;
    Notarized statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation;
    Audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the immediately preceding calendar year, showing, among others, the prospective bidder's total and current assets and liabilities inclusive of income Tax Return and Receipt;
    For foreign bidders, the required documents applicable to entities doing business in the Philippines shall be substituted by the appropriate equivalent documents issued by foreign bidder's country, which documents shall be duly acknowledge or authenticated by the Philippine Consulate therein

9. TRANSCO reserves the right to reject any application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive and required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government
10. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) WINIFREDO SM. PANGILINAN
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee &
Vice President, Eng'g. Design and Construction

(PDI–Sept. 11, 16 & 24, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

RACQUEL D. JUNIO

The "PUBLIC" is hereby notified that **MS. RACQUEL D. JUNIO** whose picture appears at left and whose last known address is #56 Xavierville Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City is being sought by **YL FINANCE CORPORATION** in connection to unsatisfied obligation with the company.

UNIT: HYUNDAI STAREX; MODEL: 1999; CHASSIS #: KMJWWH-HPXUI 50835; MOTOR #: D4BHX 752099; COLOR: SILVER; PLATE #: WJK-590.

Anyone who has information that would lead to the immediate recovery of the herein-above described Chattel mortgage property will be REWARDED.

Please contact: YL FINANCE CORPORATION, Legal Department at Tel. Nos. 899-9595/896-4743/896-4744

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28-30 November 2003

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Mandaluyong City, Philippines

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Introduce your products and services during the 3-day information-packed program at the Event Activity Area. Get trade opportunities, industry trends, and market developments.

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What's on Exhibit

- Natural/Herbal/Organic Food Products
- Food Supplements (Natural/Organic/Processed) BFAD/DOH Approved Medicines
- Consumer Health Care
- Wellness/Lifestyle Products
- Exercise/Fitness and Healthy Living
- Cosmetics, Skin, Hair, and Personal
- Care Products
- HMO, Medical Insurance, Hospitals, & Medical Clinics
- Medical/Sports Equipment & Hardware
- Alternative Medicine
- Alternative Health Practices
- Allied Products/Services

Highlights of Activities

- A showcase of different health, wellness, and beauty products by over 60 companies.
- Free lectures by medical/health experts
- Free demonstration on health exercises
- Free consultations/clinics by practitioners such as iridology, reflexology, facial services, bone density test, eye check -up, etc.
- Hands-on demonstration on different products and services.
- Business opportunity seminars by leading health companies.
- Product launching and food tasting

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Email: fiera@info.com.ph, fieram2@info.com.ph • Visit Website: http://www.fml.com.ph

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on September 30, 2003, 2:00 p.m. at the DBP Head Office Auditorium, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID (Excl. of VAT)
REAL ESTATE			
MANILA			
AMD-ML-60A	No. 15 Highland Drive, Blue Ridge Subd., Quezon City	858.8 m² residential lot (TCT No. N-251920) with building & improvements	P 11,912,300.00
AMD-ML-60B	No. 4 Crestline Road, Blue Ridge Subd., Quezon City	835.5 m² residential lot (TCT No. N-251919) with building & improvements	P 10,979,200.00
BAC-2K3-9-01	Interior Maytubig St., San Rafael District, Pasay City	405.4 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-143002, Lot 2247-A-9)	P 8,108,000.00
BAC-2K3-9-02	– do –	398.3 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-143001, Lot 2247-A-10)	P 7,966.000.00
BAC-2K3-9-03	– do –	327.2 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-143000, Lot 2247-A-8)	P 6,544,000.00
AMD-EL-61	No. 38 Road 7, Project 6, Quezon City	403 m² residential lot (TCT No. N-234441) with building & improvements	P 6,708,800.00
AMD-ED-62	No. 7 Calle Azul, Tierra Hermosa II, BF Exec. Homes, Almanza Uno, Las Piñas City	288 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-70413) with building & improvements	P 1,133,700.00
AMD-ED-63	Interior Suter St., Sta. Ana	124 m² residential lot (TCT No. 156194)	P 674,600.00
AMD-EL-64	Lot 1 Blk. 18, cor. Lots 13 & 19 Golden Acres Subd., Talon Singko, Las Piñas City	236 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-75802)	P 472,000.00
BATANGAS			
DAS-004	San Vicente, Sto. Tomas	2 parcels of interior industrial lots (TCT No. T-95547) total area of 7,078 m² with warehouse buildings & improvements	P 8,929,200.00
BULACAN			
AMD-ML-65	Bgy. Lambakin, San Miguel	40,000 m² agricultural lot (TCT No. T-138507) w/ poultry bldgs. & imprvts.	P 8,412,840.00
AMD-ML-66	No. 78 Dr. Teofilo Santiago St., Poblacion, Sta. Maria	250 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-18584 M) with building & improvements	P 2,671,600.00
AMD-ED-67	No. 402 Bo. Tangos, Baliwag	240 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-128269) with building & improvements	P 331,600.00
CAVITE			
AMD-ML-68	Greenbreeze Subd., Bo. Lancaan, Dasmariñas	200 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-979115)	P 234,000.00
LAGUNA			
AMD-EL-69	Bgy. Road, Bgy. San Isidro Calauan	500 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-207251)	P 540,000.00
RIZAL			
AMD-ED-70	C. Lawis Ext., Bgy. San Luis, Antipolo City	1,377 m² industrial-residential lot (TCT No. R-14327) w/ factory / office bldg.	P 10,105,000.00
LJG-142	Lot 31 Blk. 14, Montano Drive, Palos Verdes Garden Heights Subd., Bo. Seven Hills, Antipolo City	300 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. 301965) .	P 760,000.00
CHATTELS (sale on "as-is, where-is" basis)			
AMD-EL-71	TMEC Cmpd., Bgy. Alangilan, Batangas City	7 units various marble-making machinery & equipment	P 598,000.00 to 16,670,000.00
AMD-ML-72	DBP Depot, Doña Severina Subd., Parañaque City	1 unit pad printing machine	P 28,800.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding;
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at the AMD-Acquired Assets, 2nd Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours; and
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

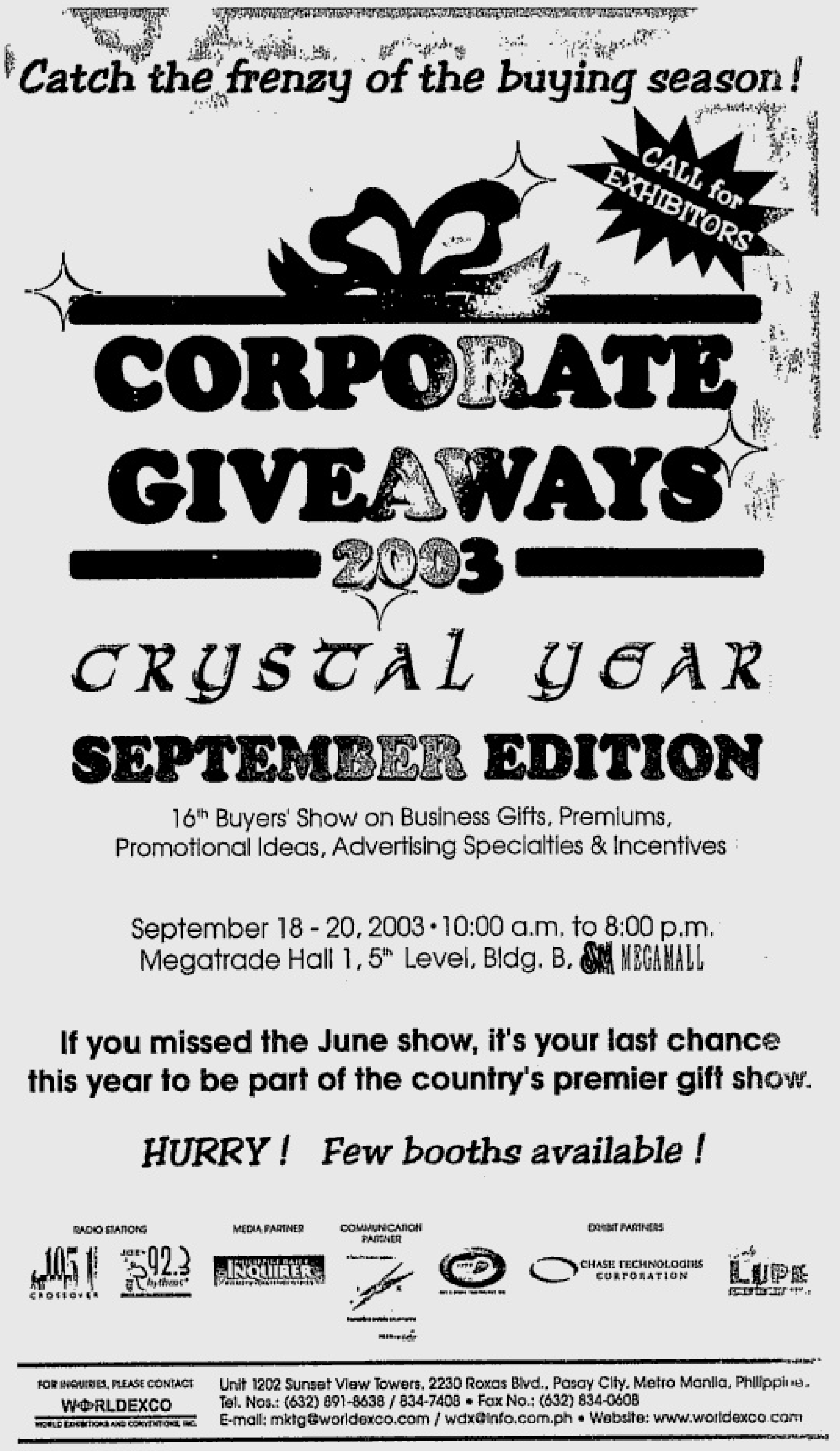
DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers:

893-7172 or 818-9511 loc. 2218/2252 for Code starting with AMD;
892-3836 or 818-9511 loc. 2227 for LJG;
(046) 416-1390 or 818-9511 loc. 1427 for DAS; and
(034) 433-42-81/82 for BAC

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI – September 16 & 17, 2003)



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Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region 10
Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR THE SECURITY SERVICES OF THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY NORTHERN MINDANAO AND CARAGA REGIONS CALENDAR YEAR 2004

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)** invites all interested Private Security Agencies with existing operations and offices in Caraga and Northern Mindanao Regions since January 2001, to participate in the Bidding for Security Services of the National Food Authority in said regions. The Security Services to be bidded shall be as follows:

SERVICES AREAS	NO. OF GUARDS	APPROVED BUDGET
NORTHERN MINDANAO:		
LOT NO.		
1. Misamis Oriental/ Regional Office/Camiguin	24	P 2,831,940.96
2. Bukidnon	27	P 3,204,142.92
3. Iligan City/Lanao del Norte	15	P 1,765,602.00
4. Ozamis City/Misamis Occidental	12	P 1,424,063.52
TOTAL	78	P 9,225,749.40
CARAGA:		
5. Agusan del Norte/Butuan City	8	P 869,063.04
6. Agusan del Sur	12	P 1,303,594.56
7. Surigao del Norte/Surigao City	14	P 1,520,860.32
8. Surigao del Sur	10	P 1,086,328.80
TOTAL	44	P 4,779,846.72

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING:

September 10-22, 2003 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	- Submission of Letter of Intent/Issuance of Application for Registration and payment of non-refundable Fee of P2,000.00
October 3, 2003 Time: 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM	- Deadline of Submission of Notarized Application for Registration and Requirements
October 9-15, 2003 (excluding Saturdays and Sundays) 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	- Issuance of Certificate of Official Registration as NFA Security Service Contractor and Application for Eligibility and Requirements, and Payment of non-refundable Bidding Fee of P500.00 per lot
October 17, 2003	- Pre-Bidding Conference Time : 9:00 AM Venue: NFA Regional Office, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro
November 5, 2003	- Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposal Time : 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM Venue : NFA Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Regional Office Baloy, Cagayan de Oro
November 5, 2003	- Opening of Sealed Bids Time : 1:31 PM

Only NFA registered security agencies are allowed to apply for eligibility and to bid for security service contract.

For further information, you may contact **Asst. Regional Director Mr. CAMILO D. MAGTRAYO** at NFA Regional Office, 2nd Floor, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City thru Telephone Nos. (08822) 732-215 or (088) 855-2721 or **Asst. Regional Director Mr. ALAN B. BORJA**, CARAGA Region, National Food Authority Provincial Office, Capitol Drive, Butuan City thru Telephone Nos. (085) 342-7898 or (085) 225-6701. Application form and bidding documents may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat c/o **Ms. EMMA P. ASIÑERO.**

NFA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, waive any required formality or defect therein and may accept the bid which is deemed most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **FLO G. PASCUAL**
Regional Director

(PDI - Sept. 10 & 16, 2003)

CARS FOR SALE

1 unit Honda City 2000
1.3 LXI M/T Green
1 unit Honda City 1999
1.3 LXI A/T Red
1 unit Toyota Corolla Altis
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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH CENTER
North Ave. cor. Science Road, Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

The Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC) invites all interested parties to submit sealed bid for Janitorial and Security Contractual Services.

SCHEDULE

Pre-bid Conference	Janitorial	September 18, 2003 10:30 a.m.
	Security	September 18, 2003 2:30 p.m.
Submission of Eligibility Check/Commercial Documents/ Bid Offers and Opening		
	Janitorial	October 3, 2003 10:00 a.m.
	Security	October 3, 2003 2:00 p.m.

Only those bidders attending the pre-bid conference may submit Eligibility Check/Commercial Documents and bid offers.

The Center reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to this agency.

For further details please contact Supply Section, Finance and Administrative Division. Tel. No. 927-0862 and 929-6036 to 39 loc. 306.

(Sgd.) **DR. DULCE P. ESTRELLA-GUST**
Executive Director

(PDI - Sept. 9 & 16, 2003)

NFA widens marketing support to corn farmers

THE NATIONAL Food Authority has strengthened its Corn Marketing Assistance Program to help corn farmers earn better from their produce through the agency's electronic trading (e-Trading). The program's guidelines was discussed with corn farmers during the recent Corn Summit in Koronadal City sponsored by the Department of Agriculture.

Under the program, the NFA will initially pay the corn stocks based on the prevailing NFA support price while corn farmers await for their corn stocks to be sold through the e-Trade system. The amount initially paid by the NFA shall be deducted from the sales proceeds once the corn stocks are sold through market matching.

Senior Grains Operations Officer for Region XII Fiorelio Aguiero who represented Region XII Director Francisco Garcia, said during the Summit that the NFA provides the necessary support facilities for the program which includes buying stations and warehouses.

Corn sellers are granted a 30-day free storage from the date of notification that their offers had been matched with a buyer. If NFA is the buyer, the reckoning date of free storage shall be from the date the buyer is notified of the purchase. A storage fee, which includes warehouse rental, insurance premiums, stocks maintenance and handling costs shall be charged beyond a buyer.

Through this scheme, Aguiero said the corn farmers are assured not only of a ready market for their produce but also an opportunity to obtain better prices.

Business gifts industry, market fast expanding

THE COUNTRY'S business gifts industry is fast expanding, and so is its market.

This phenomenon is largely attributed to the growing use of business gifts as a marketing tool, which enables consumer firms to adapt to the local market's penchant for gift-giving as a cultural practice.

Thus, the number of suppliers of business gifts has also grown enormously, forcing events organizer Worldexco to stage two successive exhibitions of corporate giveaways this year to accommodate new players and buyers.

This year's first Corporate Giveaways 2003 was held only last June at the Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati City. The second, dubbed Corporate Giveaways 2003 – September Edition, will be staged from Sept. 18 to 20 at the Megatrade Hall A of SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

"The September Edition will enable companies to book orders in time for the Christmas season and the advent of 2004 for their year-round giveaways," said Worldexco president Lynn Z. Romero.

A regular annual event, Corporate Giveaways has succeeded in reaching over 100,000 corporate buyers through the years as it showcases many new products and innovative gift ideas in every exhibit.

"And so today, this mere cottage enterprise has evolved into a multimillion-dollar industry that has also captured the export market on a made-to-order basis," Romero added.

These fascinating new gift products are quite uncommon, very attractive, and personally useful. Yet, all these items can very conspicuously but gracefully carry the product brand names and logos of the supposed corporate giver, thus endearing them to the recipients.

All customized to the specific requirements of corporate buyers, the gift items to be exhibited include brass desk items from Action House International, signages from Aitech, metal fabrication and acrylic novelties from RG Trophy, analog cameras and calculators from Canon, data collection products from Chase Technologies, and sports and tote products from Chi'aro Trading;

Nylon and leatherette items from Craftsland Collections, balloons and giant decors from Lollipop Safety Balloons Center, unique signages from McGraphics Carranz Int'l, genuine leather products from Manel's, promo items from Mitsui Trading, radio from Next Mobile, writing instruments from Star Paper Corp, and water dispenser and kitchen appliances from Taytan International;

Leather gifts and accessories from The Leather Collection, acrylic office items from Top Concept International, industrial wear from the Uniforms Manufacturers Association of the Philippines, appliances from 3C Distributors International, all types of bags from AR Lopez, umbrellas from Classic Umbrella, electric appliances and gadgets from Matsushita Electric, and special candles from Doc's Candle.

Inquiries or reservations can be made with Worldexco (891-8638, 834-7408, fax 834-0608, e-mail mktg@worldexco.com). Visit www.worldexco.com.

The event will also enable exhibitors to launch new products and ideas to a readily receptive market; touch base with thousands of top-management executives in search of various giveaways, and establish a vast network of potential clients on a national and international scale.

Crystalderm grand opening sale

CRYSTALDERM invites you to the grand opening sale of its two new branches at the 5th Level, Building A, SM Megamall on Sept. 16 and at the 3rd Level of SM City Lucena on Oct. 3. Visit Crystalderm's other branches at SM City Fairview, SM City Bacoor, SM Sta. Mesa, SM City Pampanga, Star Mall Mandaluyong, and Metropolis Alabang. For inquiries, call 436-1636.

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"Let the words of my mouth meet your Favor, keep the thoughts of my heart before you, Lord, my rock, my redeemer..."

—Psalm 21:15

INOCENCIA LOZADA CASTILLO

(Widow of the late Dr. Andres V. Castillo)

Peacefully joined her Creator
on September 14, 2003 at the age of 92.

Her loving children **Linda**, **Marlu** (†) & **Domingo Bautista**, **Lily** & **Chito Constantino** and **Andres Jr.** & **Lilith**; grandchildren **Jed**, **Joby**, **Gary**, **Ria**, **Norman**, **Rina** & **Rene Piezas**, **Christine**, **Andy**, **Michael** and **Mark**; great granddaughter **Bianca Piezas**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Capilla de San Francisco, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be on Thursday, September 18, 2003 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque City after the 9:00 AM mass at the Capilla de San Francisco.

Architect ANTONIO C. FLORENTINO

of Pamplona, Cagayan & Antipolo, Rizal

Peacefully joined his Creator
on the 14th day of September 2003 at the age of 76.

His loving wife **Atty. Lourdes Fajutrao Florentino**; loving sisters **Rosario**, **Lourdes**, **Teresita** and **Agnes**; in-laws **Ex-Mayor Antonio Ifurung**, **Jaime Maravilla**, **Primitiva H. Fajutrao**; nieces and nephews request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie at Imperial Chapel, Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue.

Interment will be on Sept. 20, 2003 at North Cemetery, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

The Lawyers and Staff of
FLORENTINO & ESMAQUEL LAW OFFICE

wish to condole with the wife
(Atty. Lourdes Fajutrao Florentino)

and relatives of

ARCHITECT ANTONIO C. FLORENTINO

who passed away last 14 September 2003

We will miss him.

His remains lie in state at the Imperial Chapel of Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on 20 September 2003 at Manila North Cemetery after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

DAMASA "Daming" ABU Vda. de MAGBOO

Returned to her Creator
on 11 September 2003 at the age of 68.

Her beloved husband **Felipe Sr.** (†);
sons **Pepito**, **Paquito**, **Fr. Federico**, **Felipe Jr.** and **Ferdinand**;
daughters-in-law **Nona**, **Evelyn** and **Delia**;
grandchildren **Carlo**, **Chiara**, **Nadine**, **Queenie**, **Kyle**, **Darboy** and **Damfel**,
brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, all the relatives,
Clergy of the Archdiocese of Lipa,
Parishioners of the Parish of San Vicente Ferrer in Banaybanay, Lipa City
and all her loving friends request the pious readers
to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Knights of Columbus Hall,
Immaculate Concepcion Parish Church Site, Bauan, Batangas.

Funeral Mass will be held at Immaculate Concepcion Parish, Bauan, Batangas at 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 23, 2003. Interment will immediately follow at the Bauan Catholic Cemetery.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."

2 Corinthians 5:8

EMIDIO JUN MONTEGRICO TORRADO, JR.

of SFDM, Quezon City and Aparri, Cagayan

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on September 13, 2003 at the age of 46.

His remains lie in state at the St. Martin Mortuary, Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City.

His loving family, children, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment will be on Thursday, September 18, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. at the Chinese Cemetery, La Loma, Manila.

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Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

EUROPE-INSPIRED summer villa

Baguio Country Club looks forward to its centenary

Text and photos by Charles E. Buban

BEFORE GOLF courses and country clubs were even trendy, there already was Baguio Country Club.

Built in 1905, the BCC is one of the very few remaining historical establishments in the city that epitomizes the relaxing charm of the region.

Situated high up in the mountains—at 1,524 m (5,000 ft) above sea level—this 27-hectare property offers unparalleled scenery of majestic pines and rich flora and cool climate all year round.

For decades, the BCC has continuously transformed itself to cope with the changing needs of its members and meet the latest standards in hospitality and service.

Said BBC general manager Anthony de Leon: "For almost a century now, we are trying to blend history, culture and urban conveniences with the best of city's country life. Our current transformation will take us up to 2005, when BCC will celebrate its centenary, a feat only a few establishments here in the country can boast of."

Undulating fairways

The BCC is recognized as among the best golfing and vacation establishments in the Philippines.

The club's centerpiece is its 18-hole, 4,156 yards (par 61) golf course, whose undulating fairways and short par 4s will surely give golfers the challenge they seek out.

The golf course is known for holding the biggest amateur golf tournament in the world, the Men's Fil-Am International Amateur Golf Championships, held every November.

"BCC" is characterized by narrow fairways, which issue a sportful challenge, and it features a multitude of mature pine trees throughout the course," described BCC golf consultant Bjorn Erik Andersson.

Something for everyone

The club offers something for everyone, always reminding them of the days when the pursuit of leisure was an art form.

This exclusive club has more than 2,000 members whose families and guests continue to enjoy the finest and warmest hospitality service for generations.

WELL-TRAINED butler

DINE with the mountain as backdrop

All the clubhouse's 167 rooms and suites offer every amenity expected from a luxury hotel, equipped with cable television, NDD/IDD telephone, mini bar, electronic safe and a private bathroom.

"With the completion of our 24 rooms and suites at the exclusive executive floor, BCC will be the first in Baguio City to offer butler service to offer our special guests a very exclusive and personalized service," announced BCC rooms division manager Danny Gacuya.

For select guests, the BCC also has 17 Europe-inspired summer villas complete with living area, kitchen, three bedrooms and two bathrooms.

Favorite venue

The BCC has been a favorite venue for business and social gatherings all these years.

Equipped with the best banquet and conference facilities in the city, it has several function rooms ideal for meetings, seminars and conferences.

The pillarless ballroom can accommodate a party of up to 1,000 guests while its business center offers computer, Internet, facsimile and mailing services to support meeting requirements.

When it's time to relax indoors, the club's recreation center is the best place offering, fully automated tenpin bowling alleys, billiards, table tennis, darts and video games.

There's also a fitness center at the basement and even a massage and sauna within the center.

Six restaurants

When it's time to wine and dine, the BCC will surely leave a lasting impression on its members and guests, thanks to its six restaurants that offer unique ambience.

The Verandah is the clubhouse's most popular restaurant as it offers a relaxing view of the golf course.

"For a more formal dining, the Cotterman Room is perfect for its theme buffet as well as local and continental cuisine," reminded BCC executive chef Pio de Guzman.

Hamada restaurant, on the other hand, serves authentic Japanese specialties with teppanyaki service and sushi bar amid the view of the mountains for its backdrop.

For the more harried individuals, there's Pastry Shop that offers the freshly baked pastries (especially the raisin and banana bread) ready for take out while Halfway House located near Hole No. 7 will replenish your energy in no time. Of course, there's also room service that offers the best meal in the comfort of your room.

Par 7, on the other hand, is a sportsman's bar offering a la carte dining.

Lured to the cool climate

Attracted to Benguet province by the region's cool climate, American settlers in 1900 arrived in horse-drawn wagons, on horseback and on foot.

The grandeur of the mountains, fertile valleys, pine-clad hills and the appeal of one of Philippines' most beautiful landscapes held them captive.

It was then that they decided to make the place—what is now Baguio City—the summer of capital of the country.

During this development, the new settlers also saw the need for a place where they can play and enjoy the surrounding beauty, thus organizing the BCC in 1905.

THE BBC is one of the few remaining historical establishments in Baguio City.

Situations to avoid in buying real estate

By Alexis A. Acacio

BUILDING DREAMS

IN FINDING the right real estate property, you are sometimes caught in a situation in which after spending several weekends (and even months) searching for the right home, you still just cannot find the right one. Finding the right home for you and your family always requires a fit between your needs and the fulfillment of these needs that can be delivered by the property that you are buying.

Sometimes, when you are too tired of looking for the right property, it is common that you tend to buy the property just to get it over with. This is one of the most common mistakes when buying real property. You should do your best in searching for the right property and getting the right one sometimes does not come easy. It is best to avoid these situations for you will surely regret your investment decision to buy something that you do not really want.

Situations to avoid

There are many situations to avoid in any real estate transaction. The important thing is to be able to identify clearly and explicitly these specific situations. These are:

- **You Just Do Not Understand**—A real estate product, whether it is a house, vacant lot, condominium, etc. is a technical product and there are certain things that you have to understand regarding its physical features. It also would require an understanding of the legal transaction that would take place should you finally decide to purchase the property. All of these things that you have to understand would take a lot of effort and your valuable time to fully comprehend.

If you do not understand the various parts of a house, then you should read literature or ask a design professional. If you do not understand the legal jargon that goes with the transaction, then advice from a legal counsel would help.

The important thing to remember is that you should take the necessary steps in understanding what you are getting into. However, do not fall into the trap of "analysis paralysis" in which you become obsessed in learning all of the details to make sure that everything is perfect and you end up missing all of the important deals that come along the way. The secret here is to be technically and legally versed so when the opportunity comes for that real estate deal of your life, then you will surely be prepared to grab it.

- **You Do Not Have the Resources Now**—A real estate purchase would probably be the biggest purchase that you will have in your entire life. This means years of financial preparation. If you are just not ready, do not waste other people's time (sellers and brokers time). Many sellers and brokers have complained that they have wasted time showing pieces of property to "buyers" who did not have the money in the first place. Shopping ahead is sure a good idea but shopping for real estate that you will buy three years from now just does not make sense. Somebody else will probably buy it ahead of you.

When you are not yet financially ready but would want to look at pieces of property, it is better that you tell your real estate broker or the seller outright so that they can guide you in properly focusing on the homes that may suit your future needs. If you are open with your current financial status to your brokers, then they can even suggest that maybe you take your purchase into two steps—perhaps buy a lot first in installment, then after paying for it, ask for the services of a contractor to build it for you.

- **Difference in Your Lifestyle and the Homestyle**—In searching for a home, you already have an idea on the subdivision style and home style that you would want and this reflects clearly the kind of life that you would need. If you would really want an Italian-inspired home, then do not waste your time looking at other homes. Try to focus on the homes that you are really interested in.

In looking for professional help like design and construction services, it is also important that your working style fits with that of the professionals that you will hire. Remember that you will be working with them for several months (even years) on a project together and both of you will be undergoing a lot of stress.

A similar working style is supported by mutual trust including a shared set of values and high ethical standards. Bad relationships between owners and construction professionals often result from differences in personality, style and ethical standards that neither party exerts efforts to resolve.

- **You Cannot See Value in the Purchase**—There are properties in which you just see that there is no value for you (even though the seller sees too much value on it). Not all pieces of properties are made for everybody. A property can be valuable to somebody else but is of no use to you. If you simply cannot see the value of the property, then do not buy it.

- **Too Many Seller Demands**—This is common if you are buying pieces of property in which there is too much documentation and it would take months before they release to you the title of the property. I have seen home and lot buyers, after paying the contract price in full, wait for years until the title comes out simply because the company in which they bought from has a policy of processing real estate titles in batches. Before you pay, make sure that the seller will tell you the time in which they will deliver to you the title. If they tell you the month, confirm the year.

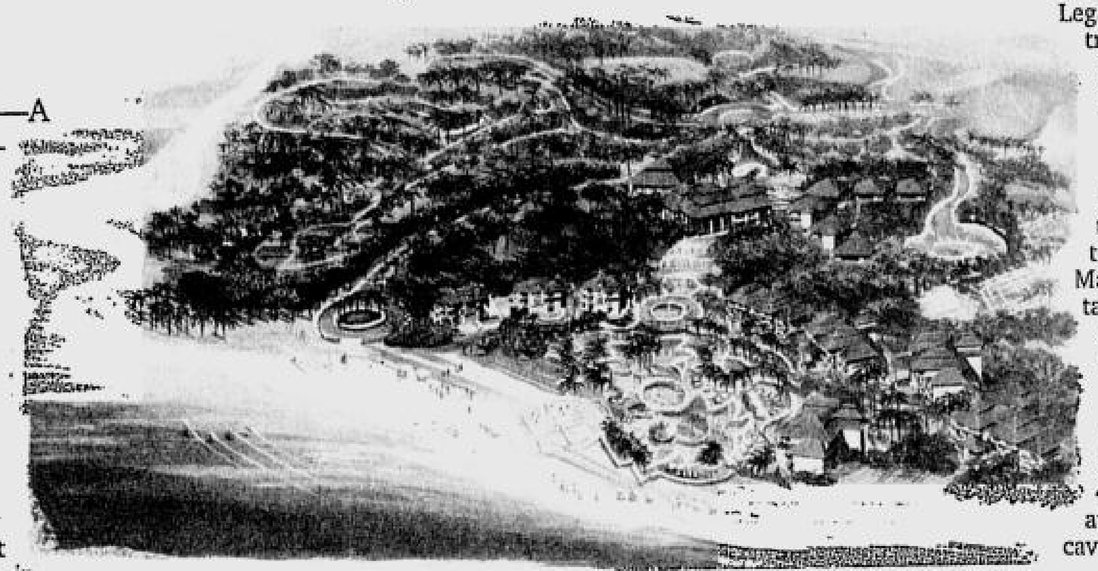
Sellers can be too demanding sometimes and transactions have fallen through for this reason. The reverse can also happen—too many unreasonable buyer demands.

Final Advice. Buying real estate requires a big amount of money. It is but logical that you spend time to fully understand what you are going into. If you feel that you are not just ready, then take your time to learn and understand the deal.

(Alexis A. Acacio is an associate professor of Civil Engineering at the University of the Philippines. For comments and advice you may reach him at aaacacio@pacific.net.ph.)

World-class beachfront spa resort on the rise in Albay

**By Gil Francis G. Arevalo
and Ronnie Lorejo**
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau



MISIBIS resort

LEGAZPI CITY—A world-class beachfront spa resort, with a long stretch of fine white sand and complete with modern facilities, is now in full development in Barangay Misibis, Bacacay, Albay, by prominent Bicolano businessman Elizalde "Zaldy" Co.

"It's a very strategic and fully nature-packaged beauty resort where one can absolutely feel in one setting as if he is in Palawan, Phuket, Bali, Maldives, Boracay, and Waikiki, or perhaps better," Co said.

Dubbed as an architectural structure at its finest, the Misibis Spa Resort and Residences is aimed at being the next world-class tourist destination in the country.

It will be boosted by the new international airport that is being planned for construction in the province, particularly in Barangay Alobo in nearby Daraga town.

The place offers a panoramic view of the Mayon Volcano, Sula Channel (galleons and ships' sanctuary in times of typhoon), Pototan Cave in Batan Island (known for its teeming terraces of waterfall like contour of pools of water overflowing from its "cauliflower" structure, and its exotic underground rivers), Bac-Man geothermal site and Nag-asu Lake (the "burning" lake of Albay), among other features.

Just 20 minutes away from the resort is an underground river called Pighologan Cave.

Actually, though the resort will be fully operational by March 2006 yet, many tourists, both local and national have already visited the resort.

40 hectares

The Misibis resort is a 40-hectare beachfront property nestled at the south coast of the Pacific Ocean via a three-km route to the Sula Channel.

Co said that though at present the resort has only two big function rooms, it will soon open the following amenities and services: restaurant and bar, poolside bar, lagoons, more function rooms, souvenir shop, sauna and spa, grand main lobby, a chapel, infinity pool, business center, beachfront cabañas, auto terrain vehicles, driving range, indoor games, tennis court, water sport activities, marina, and horseback riding.

"It's more than a five-star hotel, since right now the construction of two or more big villas and six or more clusters are in the process. People coming here will not only enjoy the tranquil beauty of the beach or other scenic spots that it can offer, but, of course, also the state of being private just like in a hotel," Co explained.

He added that just like in any other world-class beach resort, this too, would offer numerous infinity pools where one can appreciate the conducive and exclusive atmosphere of the place.

Co said the project entails an initial cost of P250 million, although he admitted that it could further reach up to a billion of pesos for its full development.

Ronald Bejerano, senior architect and project manager, added that the proposed project would have a main clubhouse that can accommodate 200 to 300 guests.

Five clustered houses surrounding the layered and infinity pools will cascade from the main clubhouse.

Cable car will also be constructed, offering a grand panorama of the site and its connecting islands.

Total development, including construction of high-end residential, areas will be completed in three years.

"Generally, construction materials will be local to promote our own product and give value to its competitiveness to imported products, yet some detailed finishings will come from the Asian region.

World-class

Co, 34, owner of the popular Legazpi Renaissance Garden and Country Club located at the heart of Legazpi City, told the INQUIRER that what makes the Misibis resort world-class is its style.

It is Filipino-Asian in nature—although influenced by the prominent beach resorts in Thailand, Indonesia, America, Maldives and some parts in Europe to where he has been. But he denied that it is in many ways a copycat, "for Misibis is largely very Filipino in character"—from the materials being used, the perspectives and designs, the employees, architects, engineers, contractors, interior designers, and of course, the naturalness of the place—which would make every Filipino very proud of.

"Most of the architects, engineers, contractors, and interior designers that I have employed were previously working abroad. They're that world class, plus the fact that I let them come with me to other places abroad for them to see the modern and novel trend-setting styles of beach resorts," Co said.

As to the materials and equipment utilized, Co revealed that some of them were bought abroad, especially from America.

"This only refers to the toilet bowls, bath tubs, jacuzzis, tiles, the roofing of the villas and clusters," Co said.

As to the interior designs—wood, highly commercialized mineral commodities like pebbles and crafted materials—he stressed that they utilize local yet highly first-class and unique materials to adopt them to the discriminating tastes of tourists.

"Sometimes if the materials are not available in Tabaco, Albay, we order them from Cebu, Manila and Palawan or in some parts of Asia. So, this is indeed a Filipino-Asian in character. We try to preserve here the dazzling, natural and exotic beauty of Asia," he said.

Eco-tourism

The highlight of the resort focuses not just on the said amenities, but also on the "wild side" of the place—the presence of a wildlife sanctuary.

This is in connection with the local government's declaration that most part of Cagraray Island is an eco-tourism zone.

Co said the purpose is for other tourists, who can't afford to go to the resort, to at least just roam around the area and experience the exhilarating beauty of the island and commune with nature.

"Majority cannot afford to come to the resort, but we can't deny them the alluring beauty of the place, so we have thought of developing a wildlife area," the young development-oriented businessman said.

He added that since it's world-class, most likely it will be the Class A that can afford to come, but having the eco-tourism area will enable other classes of people to enjoy the place.

"Somehow the idea here is related to the Phuket, Thailand Beach resort wherein foreigners will have to pay $2,000 while domestic tourists from all over the Philippines will pay only 50 percent. Of course locals will pay discounted rates," Co said.

Travel time

Tourists interested to visit Misibis may take the route of Sula Channel in Bacacay town, wherein a motorized boat can ferry them across the channel and they can either take a 15-minute jeepney ride or a 25-minute boat ride to the resort.

Guests who wish to bring their cars can proceed directly to the Roro Port A and mount their cars onto the barge.

Another way is through the Legazpi port on board public sea transport, which is about one-hour drive by water to the resort's private port.

Now that there's a road under construction in Barangay Sula going to Barangay Misibis in Cagraray Island, tourists who wish to visit Pototan and Nag-asu Lake in Manito, Albay, will no longer take the main Batan Island area and the long way road just to reach these places.

The newly constructed road in Misibis will enable them to take off from Barangay Mosboron and cruise by 40 minutes to Pototan for its awesome underground river-cave.

CONSTRUCTSCOPE

House at stake in DesignBuild 2003

A HOUSE will be raffled off as grand prize to the lucky visitor of DesignBuild 2003, the country's foremost, fully integrated trade show dealing with all aspects of construction. DesignBuild is slated on Sept. 25-28 at the PICC Forum, CCP complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. The charming model home that awaits the lucky grand prize winner is one of the quality prefabricated house designs of total home builder, Vazquez Building Systems Inc. (Vazbuilt), one of the exhibitors. To qualify for winning the dream home, simply visit DesignBuild, fill out the registration form available at the information counter, attach your business card; get an ID sticker and raffle booklet which must be stamped by authorized representatives of companies listed on the front page; proceed to the registration counter for verification, then drop the booklet at the designated tambiolo. Visitors must be at least 18 years old to qualify for the raffle. Those who attend the seminars will be entitled to four bonus stamps.

Seminar on buying, financing your first home

THE URBAN Institute of Real Estate will conduct a seminar on "Buying and Financing Your First Home" on Sept. 16 from 1:30 to 6 p.m. at Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2, Park Square Drive, Ayala Center, Makati City. Through this seminar, first-time home buyers will be protected from common mistakes and frauds and will be guided in acquiring their first dream homes. Topics to be covered are the common mistakes of first-time home buyers, determining how much you can afford; the right type of home for you; criteria on where to live; the right neighborhood for you; what you should know about property taxes; and tips on looking for bargain alternatives. Also included are services of real estate professionals; home inspection; negotiating the price and terms; tips on securing a mortgage; types of mortgages available; how much down payment; government subsidized mortgage; seller's financing; beware of the fine prints; default and foreclosures; rights of buyers under Maceda Law, PD 957 and other HLURB Rules. For inquiries, call up the Urban Institute at 681-0928 or e-mail urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

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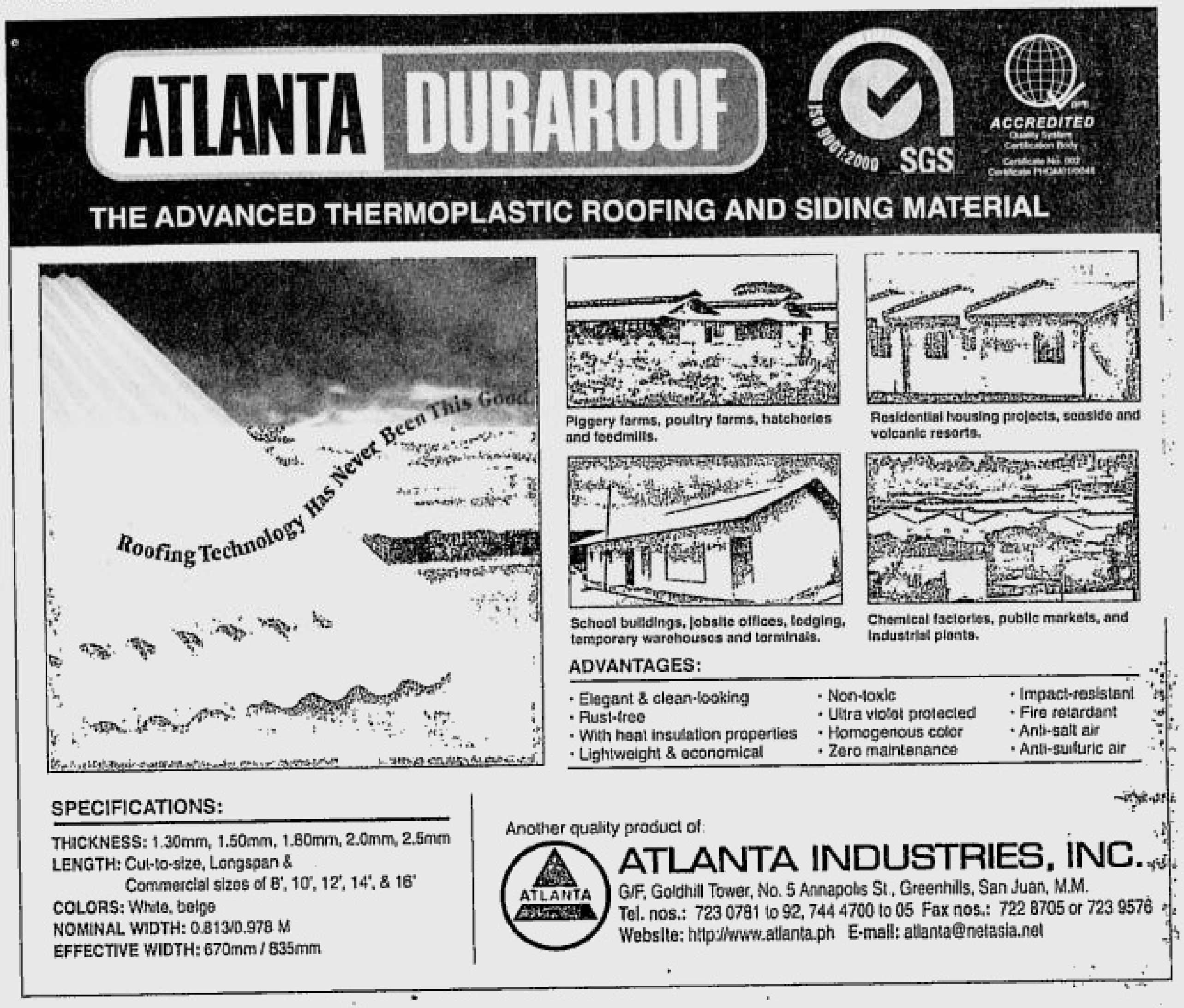
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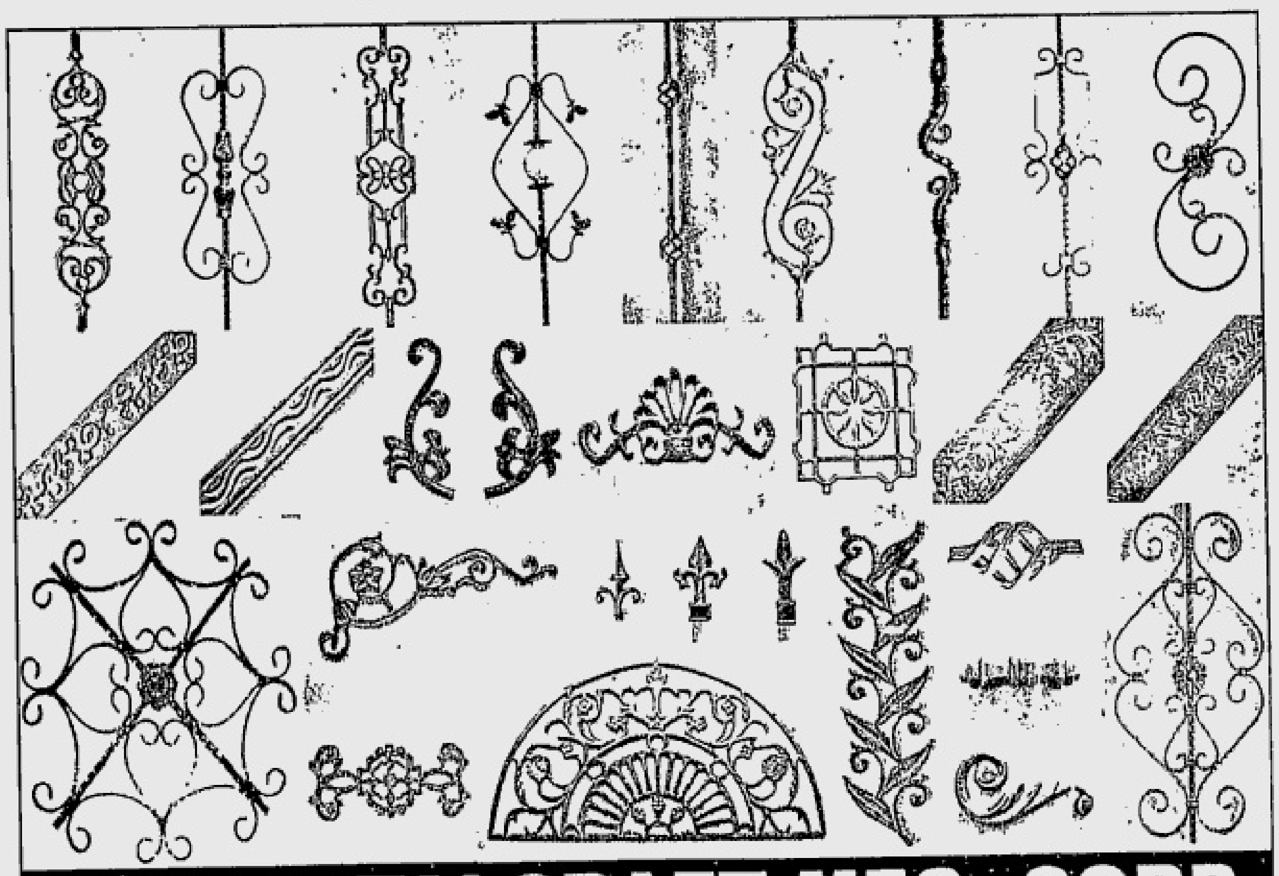

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Gov't urged to draw up port dev't master plan

By Abigail L. Ho

IN VIEW of the limited resources of the government, a transportation official has proposed the drafting of a national port development master plan that will identify priority projects for funding.

Transportation Assistant Secretary Robert Castañares pointed out in a statement that, for the past three years, many port modernization projects had taken a backseat due to lack of funds.

The best way to implement these maritime projects was to allocate the government's scarce resources wisely, he said. This could be done if there was a specific prioritization plan.

Castañares added that donor countries or other financial institutions providing funding should not be the ones to dictate which projects should be implemented by government agencies.

"It is high time that the country planners themselves prioritize which ports need upgrading as they are more familiar with the needs of the country's development plans and programs," he said.

According to surveys conducted by the Department of Transportation and Communications, all of the country's existing ports should be improved if they would be counted on to help boost the economy.

Castañares noted that, being an archipelago as well as an agricultural country, the Philippines relied a lot on ports for shipping goods.

He said that around 60 percent of the total cargo passing through the country's ports were domestic in nature, so the modernization even of the small feeder and municipal ports was important.

"While we appreciate the need to upgrade the equipment and infrastructure of the so-called triple and two-star ports, we should not lose sight of the fact that our country has many remote islands and municipalities that still need feeder or municipal ports," he said.

He noted that while rehabilitating and modernizing larger ports all over the country, feeder and municipal ports should not be ignored as many farmers and entrepreneurs used those smaller ports in their trade.

The formation of a national port master plan would ensure that smaller ports would be given due attention while the larger and busier ports were being provided funding for modernization as well.

"It is imperative that the efficiency of transportation, particularly in the delivery of goods, movement of people and services be made consistent with the pace of (technological) developments," Castañares said.

Napocor's power rate hike petition opposed

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE HEAD of the House committee on energy yesterday decried National Power Corp.'s bid to raise its rates, especially for Mindanao, saying this would make investments in the island non-viable.

Napocor filed on Friday a petition with the Energy Regulatory Commission seeking the following adjustments: 50 centavos per kWh in Luzon; 40 centavos in the Visayas, and P1.78 in Mindanao.

Lanao del Norte Rep. Alipio Cirilo Badelles said in a statement that allowing such changes in Napocor's selling rates would make electricity in Mindanao costlier than in Luzon and the Visayas.

"Mindanao is the least developed among the big islands because of the Moro rebellion and other peace and order-related problems, and making power rates in Mindanao higher than those in Luzon and the Visayas is like striking the last nail in the coffin," the lawmaker said.

Badelles said the power rates in Mindanao should remain the lowest among the three major grids since the cost of generation in the south was the cheapest.

"The bulk of the power generated in Mindanao comes from the Agus and Pulangi complexes which are purely water-driven," he said.

Per Napocor's petition, rates would change from P2.13 per kWh to P2.63 in Luzon, P2.24 per kWh to P2.63 in the Visayas and P1.02 per kWh to P2.80 in Mindanao.

The petition—covering changes in the cost generating electricity between Feburary and May—was Napocor's second application for rate adjustment through the generation rate adjustment mechanism or Gram.

Domestic shipping sector seeks incentives

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DOMESTIC shipping industry has asked the government for support in the form of incentives and reduction in tariffs on its raw materials.

The Philippine Inter-Island Shipping Association (Pisa), the umbrella organization of the domestic shipping sector, said the support was aimed at helping the industry weather the effects of the peso devaluation and steer itself from a sluggish performance.

Pisa said it was particularly asking the government to reduce, if not totally eliminate, tariffs on metal plates, steel railings and classed metals—which are used as materials for ship repair. The current tariffs on these products range from 3 percent to 15 percent.

The group said in a primer that reducing tariffs on steel products that were being used for ship repair was necessary because the country does not have its own steel industry. Unlike their counterparts in other Asian countries, which have their own steel industry, ship operators here had to contend with much higher operating expenses because of the need to import.

This leaves them hardly able to compete with their counterparts in the region, it added.

The industry is also asking the government to reduce the 3 to 5-percent tariffs on vessels, which are all bought from foreign ship builders, because the recent fall of the peso made importation very costly.

"We hope the government could reduce the tariffs to the minimum level possible. Because of the exchange rate, a shipping company will have to shell out more than P50 million to acquire the usual $1-million vessel, and this has made costs too high," said a Pisa official in an interview.

Pisa said it had already filed its petition for tariff reduction with the Tariff Commission last year, but that the government agency has yet to issue a decision on the matter.

The group also appealed to the Board of Investments (BOI) for more attractive incentives under the Investment Priorities Plan (IPP). Specifically, it wants the BOI to stretch the six-year income tax holiday granted to ship operators to around 15 to 20 years while the industry is still in the process of development.

"The six-year income tax holiday is not enough because the six-year period is still an adjustment stage for new ship operators when they usually have to absorb losses while they are still developing routes and clients," the Pisa official said.

SBMA gets ₱800M in new investments

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—More than P800-million worth of new investments were approved by the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) during a mass contract signing here on Friday.

SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo said the amount would be poured in by 18 new investors. The new investments, he said, were expected to generate more than 300 jobs.

The Specified Contractors Inc., which is engaged in the development of retirement homes, has poured in P252 million for a 50-year lease term. The Subic Bay Garden Villas, Beverly Hills Development Corp. and Nadia International Inc., which will lease and rehabilitate housing units in the freeport, have invested a total of P20 million for a five-year lease term.

Tropical Paradise Retirement Village Inc., which will establish a multi-dimensional and holistic retirement village here, has committed to infuse an investment of P51.5 million for a one-year lease term. *Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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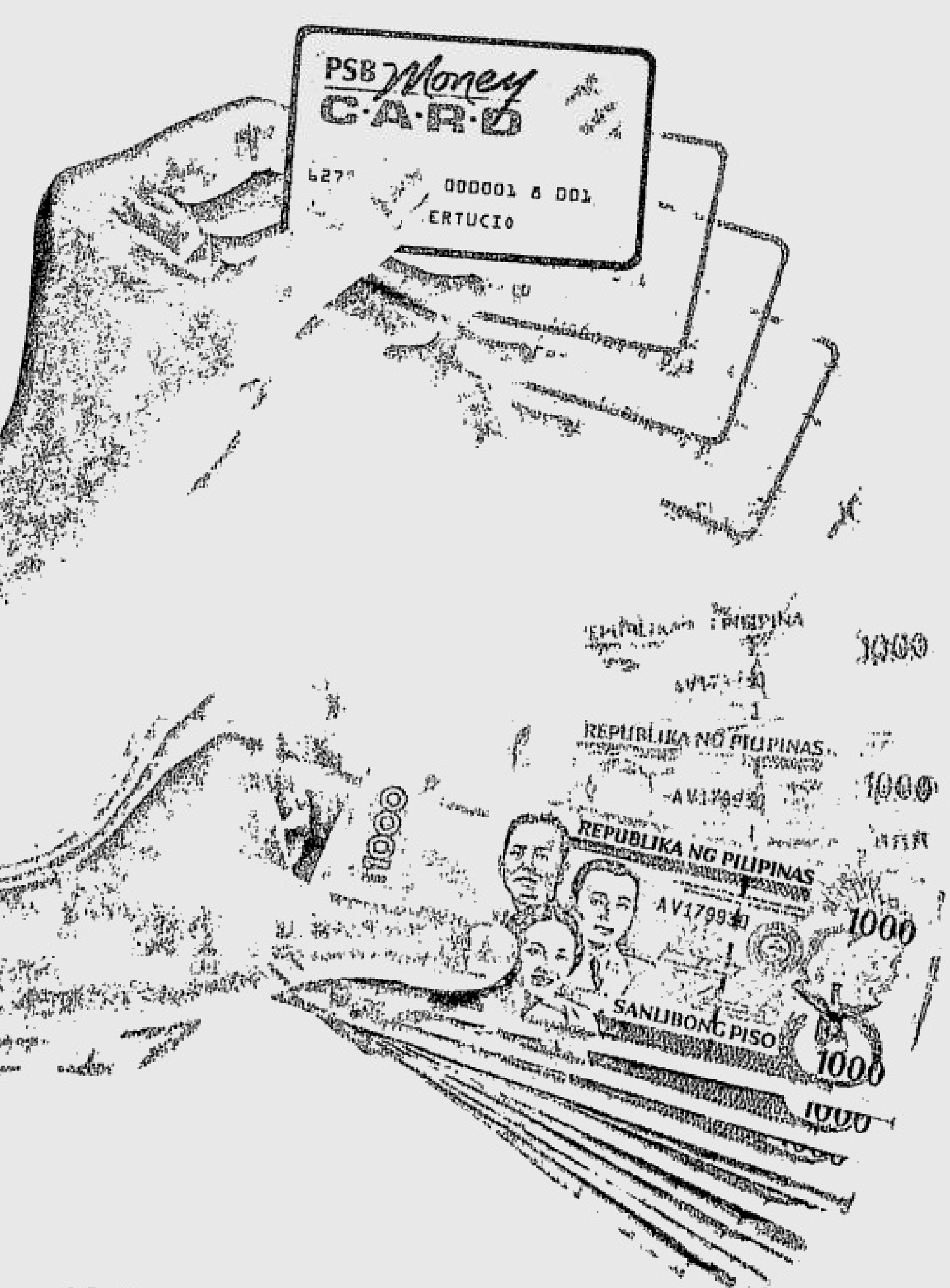

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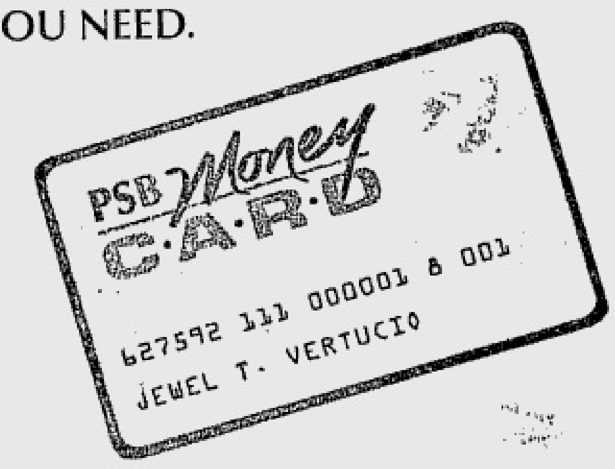

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

How to lose marital fat

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

IF you have been married for 10-15 years, chances are you do not look the same as you did when you were still single. I'm not talking about looking older because, hey, we all have to age. I'm talking about your weight and size. If you are similar to many married people, you will have put on about 19 lbs if you are a man and about 24 lbs if you are a woman.

Several studies have confirmed that marriage can make you fat. As one author put it, "First comes love, then comes marriage, then comes the baby carriage and a pot belly."

There are several reasons married couples gain weight, but the most basic of all is that there is no longer any motivation to look as attractive as they did when they were still on the prowl for a partner.

So if you are about to get married and you don't want to be part of the marital weight gain statistics years later, be conscious of how destructive this attitude can be and make every effort to remain as attractive as you can for each other.

Romantic obligation

Psychologist Barbara Stuart Jacobson told Jim Kershner of The Spokesman Review, "In studies where men and women rank what is most important in a mate, physical appearance is always in the top three."

Looking good is not the only reason you should try to stay the same size. Gaining weight is usually the result of unhealthy lifestyle habits, like not getting regular exercise and eating food high in fat and sugar, which in turn increases your risk of getting heart disease, type-2 diabetes and hypertension.

So not only do you have a romantic obligation to each other to stay looking attractive, but your kids deserve to have healthy parents who will be around to watch them grow into adulthood. You should also set a good example and be a role model for your children. If you have healthy habits, they will, too. If you don't, then you are teaching them to do the same even if you preach a message of health. Kids do what you do, not what you say.

Okay, you may be thinking this is good advice for young people who are just on the verge of starting their families, but what if the damage has already been done and you are overweight and out-of-shape after having let yourself go all these years? Is there still hope for you? Of course, there is. It's never too late to get back into the groove of a healthy lifestyle. I am not saying it's going to be easy because it's difficult to change habits that have become ingrained after many years, but if you have an honest desire to get fit, all things are possible.

Sabotage as obstacle

Losing weight as a single person is hard enough; losing weight as a married person has its own set of problems that need to be addressed for weight loss success. The greatest obstacle is intentional or unintentional sabotage from your partner.

When only half of the overweight pair tries to lose weight, jealousy can rear its ugly head. In his research, sociologist Jeffrey Sobal observed that spouses can feel threatened because they believe their husband or wife is now more attractive to the opposite sex.

In a 1997 interview with Cornel University Nutrition Newsletter, Sobal said some studies have found that weight loss of a spouse can lead to divorce, while other studies have discovered sabotage attempts on the part of the spouse who wants to maintain the status quo.

Other researchers have observed that even if there is no jealousy involved, spouses can want to keep their partners overweight because they don't want to do anything about their own weight problem.

If the spouse is not overweight but has other unhealthy habits like smoking or drinking, there may have previously been an unspoken contract of "I won't bug you about your weight; don't bother me about my smoking." And now that the overweight partner wants to do something about his/her condition, the other partner feels threatened that they will have to do something about their own bad habits.

Forms of sabotage

Sabotage can take many forms. A husband may constantly bring home chocolates and other sweets, or a wife may cook fattening favorites. There can also be subtle and not-so-subtle complaints about how you are spending time away from the family because of your exercise.

I have seen husbands accuse their wives of

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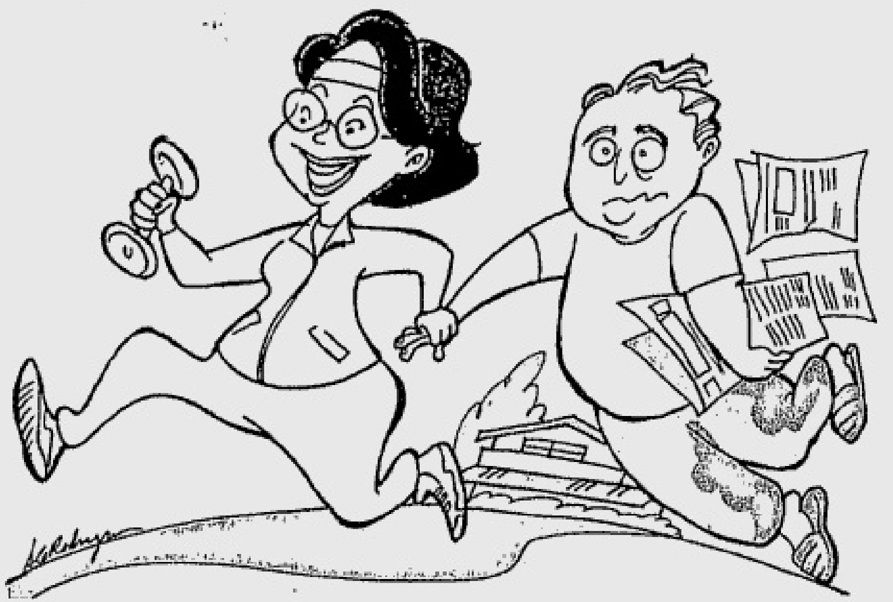

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> Most married couples no longer have the motivation to look as attractive as they did when they were still on the prowl for a partner

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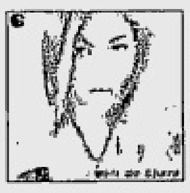

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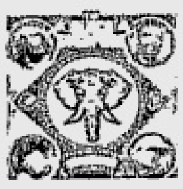

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SEPTEMBER 16 TUESDAY
422-8877

HOTSHOTS of the hour: The celebrator Nancy Harel with Tattoo Amsili of the excellent midtown resto Silver Kettle

CELEBRATING with Nancy: (from left) Marm Castro, Alma Bunag, the birthday girl, Chit Ventura, Edna Cruz, New York visitor Robert Rockefeller and Manny Reyes

THE LOYAL staff of Nancy Harel and Associates who prepared a program to toast their boss: (standing, from left) Docker Cavestany, Lisa Gonzales, Estrel Estoesta, Fe Jarencio, Jojo Dar, Nancy, James Abesamis, Niza Forschler, Robbie Ablen, Zeny Logronio; (seated) Tami Harel, Boy Caberto, Varda Cardema and Bheng Loretizo

FE Jarencio, Tami Harel, Bheng Loretizo and James Abesamis

LONG-TIME clients of Nancy: Mylene Sazon and Con Hizon, managing director of Andresons, and (standing) NuSkin's marketing director Arlene Asidan and Carol Cabacungan

NANCY with Ces Drilon and some school pals: Oly de los Santos, Edna Cruz, Alma Bunag and Cynthia Mercado

Stormy weather stops not the party pack

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** on **Kodak Max**

MAKATI was soaked to the bone that stormy night, *palanggas*, but its best-kept secret, Silver Kettle, a superb French-Mediterranean and Middle Eastern restaurant in Makati Avenue, brimmed with guests who braved the nasty weather to attend an intimate happening.

They trooped to this cozy haven for two special events: the birthday of that likable publicity whiz, PR woman **Nancy Harel**, mega president of Nancy Harel and Associates, and also the 20th anniversary of her successful company.

Hotshots who breezed into the resto included TV's glam gal **Ces Drilon**; magic man with the soft touch, former Gov. **Tony Leviste**; **Rocson Chang**, hot gent of the Singapore Tourism Board, and **Von Hizon** of Andresons.

"How did you survive so well?" I asked the woman of the hour.

"Twenty years ago, along with a few loyal colleagues who are all here tonight, I took the gutsy step of setting up my own company," said Nancy. "It was not easy, but determination, perseverance and faith have paid off."

These are the traits that have made Nancy's children truly proud to call her "mom." But what's also fantastic about her is the loyalty she commands among her staff.

Estrel Estoesta, one of the company's pioneers, couldn't say enough of Nancy. She and the rest of the staff were the ones who organized and prepared tirelessly for the event, surprising their boss with a full blown programme complete with tributes from her close pals, topped off with a rich, delectable birthday cake and red wine.

For Nancy, the bash was also her way of saying thanks to all who have supported her through the years.

With wine endlessly flowing, guests soon began standing up, singing and dancing to "Hava Nagila." Cameras flashed, wine glasses clinked, and everyone toasted another year of the well-loved lady and her ongoing success! Yes, *palanggas*, Nancy Harel is one heck of a woman.

Venezia becomes V!

The only high-end bar that caters to the rich, famous, beautiful and a dash of wannabes, V is the hottest night spot in Makati owned and managed by the king of the nightlife, **Louie Ysmael.**

When it closed for an extensive renovation, the partying pack panicked and had to resort to other venues. Then, armed with a new set of rules, a shorter trade name and a kick-ass new look, it conquered the hearts of cosmo Manille's party animals, once again, *palanggas*. And now a year later, V Bar celebrated its anniversary with a very exclusive, strictly by invitation shebang.

It rained ducks and goose earlier, but around 3 p.m. , it stopped and the sun peeked through. Despite the drastic change in the weather, V's staff, headed by their first lady, **Cecille Chang Ysmael,** scattered elegant white tents in front of the bar, reminiscent of the French Riviera. As expected, *palanggas*, the red carpet was laid out, literally. As invitees, in every luxurious car imaginable, were dropped off, and made their entrance on the red carpet lined with roses and candles, they were met by hundreds of flash-bulbs, as photographers clicked like a hoard of paparazzi. Once inside, the hot shots were welcomed by V Bar's bubbly rah! rah! gals, **Liza Tan** and **Stef Jacinto**, who watched over the reception area, before the controversial velvet ropes parted, allowing the chi-chi pack inside, where the action took place.

Free booze flowed til' midnight, which brought in loads of the partying-pack earlier. The more chic ones arrived way past the open bar time, the way it should be, *palanggas*.

And as always, the usual sizzling suspects were partying till most of them dropped—literally. Hot namedroppables included- **Miguel Blardony**, Pilates diva **Plinky Recto**, vivaciously smart **Kitty Go**, who breezed into town from Taipei where her well-liked husband **Matthew Sutherland** is based, and **Pepper Teehankee.**

THE BIG three with the star! Young crooner Michael Bublé (second from right) flanked by Ricky Ilacad, managing director of Warner Music Philippines, and MTV and Joey 92.3 FM first couple Francis Lumen and attractive wife Mary Ann Ojeda Lumen

Charlie Carmona was there on a rare night out; **Chito Loyzaga** arrived with Chinese cager **Mei Jan, Allan Montevirgen, Pablo Martel** and **Erick Cua.**

Needless to say, *moi* spotted so many types around. There was this V regular who was wearing a real micro-mini. I tell you, if it were any shorter it could be her collar. Oops. But the best comment came from a very wealthy, very married bar-hopping witty tycoon. Watching many women wearing decolletage and short-short skirts, GF laughingly told *moi* and the other tomcats around, "With the way their skirts are getting shorter and necklines lower, I 'd like to be around when both meet." Come to think of it, the guy had a point there, *di bala?*

At midnight, V was pandemonium as the heat escalated. Dishing out the great sounds were guest DJs **Anton Ramos, Manolet Dario** and **Bombi Balquieda.** Sticking to their corner were V Bar's power pillars (translation: bosses) Louie Ysmael; **Chito Melo; Pedro Roxas** with his wife, fashion plate **Gina Tambunting; Timmy Tan;** and **Jess Medina.**

SOO in love: The beautiful Elaine Matawaran and her hunk, Thomas Ellsperman

Great prizes were raffled off to lucky winners as announced by hotshot emcee **Boyet Sison**, at around 3:30 a.m. with the party still rocking. The grand prize, an all-expense trip to Boracay courtesy of Asian Spirit and Fairways and Bluewater Resort, was raffled off. Bagging this dream package was engineer **Duke Samala.**

With the intensity of fun that the invitees experienced, V Bar has reaffirmed its throne as cosmo Manille's *numero uno* bar.

Spotting them

The hottest face of the week was that handsome, talented, drop dead Mr. Charmer himself, **Michael Bublé**, who breezed into town for a series of concerts starting with a by-invitation-only gig at the Meralco Theater last Saturday. On his first night over, text messages were sent to friends, sending hordes of personas around Makati rushing to Dream Bar, where Michael floored our town's Saturday night fever pack at the bar when he obliged to sing three songs, sending the crowd berserk with applause, whistles and howls, *palanggas*.

Next morning, press lunch was held at the Conway of the colossal Shangri-La Makati, where the women and gays fell madly in love with him. His wit and charm captured all our hearts during the interview with tall, headturner **Marge Pamintuan.** Turning the table around, Michael started off by asking if Marge was nervous, she said, "Yes." "Don't be," he answered, "I'm here to take care of you." That broke the ice.

To the question, "If you didn't become a singer, what would you have been?" he answered, "I always wanted to be a sushi taster, I love eating sushis." He continued, "I've always been a crooner, never a pop singer. Before I was discovered by **David Foster**, I was a fisherman in Vancouver, so was my grandfather and father who still is fishing salmon commercially."

"Vancouver should be called Manila. The place is packed with Filipinos," he laughingly explained.

"With my first pay check, I gave my mother an all-expense vacation to Las Vegas. She loves to play the slot machines."

Catch this music wonder from Canada at the PICC Plenary Hall on the 18th.

Anniversary

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the blessing of the Santuario de San Antonio Church in posh-y Forbes Park, parish priest Fr. **Tony Rosales** and parish pastoral council president **Petrona Lim**, have organized a dinner dance "Fellowship, Song and Dance" tomorrow. Wednesday at the Main Lounge of the Manila Polo Club, Makati.

Benefit of this worthy endeavor is for the educational scholarship of poor children stricken with cancer and similar diseases at Philippine General Hospital.

This project is chaired by **Fortune Aleta Ledesma** and co-chaired by **Marilou Tantoco Pineda.** Assisting them are **Pilie Aquino, Carrie Bautista, Fanny Blanco, Lita Gelano, Baby Gloria, Chit Gohu, Rose Lazaro** and **Linda Villadelgado.**

Get your tickets at the parish office of Santuario de San Antonio. Call 8438803/31 and look for Jasmin or Joan.

COMMITTEE members: (seated) Marilou Tantoco Pineda, co-chair; Petrona B. Lim, Parish Pastoral Council president, and Fortune Aleta Ledesma, chair; (standing) Fanny Blanco, Baby Gloria, Lita Celano, Carrie Bautista and Chit Gohu. Not in photo are Rose Lazaro, Pilie Aquino and Linda Villa Delgado

THE EMBASSY of Israel gang: First Secretary Ziva Sonech with her husband Yaron, and Rami Mizrahi

LEA Mizrahi

ROCSON Chang

FORMER Batangas governor Tony Leviste gives the celebrator a big hug

THE EYECATCHERS: Pinky Webb with sweet girl Cherrie del Rosario

MOI with smart shaker and achiever Kitty Go

RACHEL Soriano with EJ Litton, Joanne and Domini Primero, Louie Ysmael and gorgeous model Phoemela Barranda

YONG Pimentel with his lady love, interior designer Ivy Almario, and V's movers Gina and Pedro Roxas

IT'S PARTY time: Margarita Locsin with Christina Bradner, her love Tony Boy Floirendo and stock broker queen Vivian Yuchengco

BOYS in black: Troy Montero with top DJ Manolet Dario and Dale Villar

JAY Cayucan with Pepper Teehankee

Swedish university offers parapsychology course

ONE of the leading Philippine newspapers reported in its Sept. 7 issue a news item released by Reuters, that "Sweden's Lund University, one of the oldest seats of learning in Scandinavia, will take a leap into the unknown by appointing northern Europe's first professor of parapsychology, hypnology and clairvoyance, in the coming school year."

The story also mentioned that Utrecht University in the Netherlands and Scotland's Edinburgh University already have chairs in parapsychology.

The topics usually discussed in this column, namely psychic powers and paranormal phenomena, are the subject matters studied in parapsychology. Few Filipinos and even readers of this column realize that parapsychology is a science. It was admitted into the roster of legitimate sciences in 1969 by the American Association for the Advancement of Science mainly through the advocacy of anthropologist Dr. Margareth Mead, though not without controversy. Some conservative and skeptical scientists tried to delist parapsychology in the association but failed. So it has remained a member.

In the Philippines, there is no school or university that includes parapsychology as a separate and independent course of study. Most of the time it is included as an additional topic in psychology, like at the Ateneo. The only time parapsychology was offered as a separate and independent full semestral subject was when I taught it for one full semester at the De La Salle University in 1982 as an elective under the Behavioral Sciences department. A few years after that, it remained as a separate course in the curriculum, but later it was integrated into transpersonal psychology.

Independent science

Parapsychology deserves to be treated as a separate and independent science in itself, like chemistry, physics, biology, sociology and psychology, because it has its own subject matter, methodology and theories. Though difficult to define in strictly orthodox scientific terms, parapsychology holds the key to a fuller understanding of human nature, behavior and mental faculties. If I were to single out a word that will define the essence of parapsychology, it would be the study of consciousness.

In recent years, I have observed a growing interest among the more progressive academic circles and students in the study of paranormal phenomena and psychic powers. The presidents of two universities expressed to me a couple of years ago their desire to include parapsychology in their curriculum and to establish a paranormal research center attached to the university. Only last week, another head of a provincial university in Southern Luzon expressed the same interest.

During the last few years, I have been invited to discuss parapsychology in formal symposiums in such Catholic schools as St. Paul's Manila, St. Scholastica's College and most recently at the Dominican College, as well as in non-sectarian Arellano University. In all these symposia, the auditoriums were always completely filled with students and some faculty members. And many students have been writing research papers and theses on clairvoyance, spirit communication, telepathy, telekinesis, and even the sorcerers of Siquijor Island for a number of years now.

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

Controversial

It seems there is no stopping this trend. Even the Asian Institute of Management, where I graduated from and where I sometimes teach creativity, intuition, telepathy, remote viewing, etc., are now included in the curriculum in its master's degree in entrepreneurship program.

As usual, the newspaper item quoted from Reuters included the following skeptical comment:

"Despite decades of experimental research and television performance by people such as spoon-bending psychic Uri Geller, there is still no proof that gifts such as telepathy and the ability to see the future exist, mainstream scientists say."

In answer to this, let me quote the following passage made by Richard S. Broughton, Ph.D. in his book, "Parapsychology the Controversial Science."

"Occasionally, you will hear some scientific pundit proclaim there is no evidence for parapsychological phenomena, therefore parapsychology is a pseudo science with no subject matter to study.

"That is patent nonsense. For over 2,000 years, people have been reporting a class of human experiences of the kind commonly called psychic, and for almost as long, scholars and scientists have been trying to understand them. Two millennia of human experiences is a subject matter.

"There is no doubt that people have experiences that are apparently psychic in nature, and therefore parapsychology does have something to study.

"The question put to parapsychology as a science is, how are we to explain these experiences?"

The Philippines can offer a unique and important contribution to the development of parapsychology as a science because numerous paranormal phenomena abound in these 7,000-plus islands just waiting to be investigated, documented and studied.

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City. Tel: 8107245 or 8926806 or e-mail jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Visit my website at http://j.licauco.tripod.com. Listen to my DZMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

Relax, let go to avoid stress

THESE are highly stressful times. What can one do to cope with everyday stress and problems?

Surviving anxiety is dependent on one's level of efficiency to plan ahead and implement measures that will help reduce stress. But before one can plan, the basic thing to do is confront one's fear and look for specific solutions.

"Very seldom do people admit they are seeing a psychiatrist for counseling or psychological problems since they do not want to be perceived as weak or *praning* (neurotic)," says Dr. Ted Abas, a consultant of St. Luke's Medical Center psychiatry department and a professor at William Quasha School of Medicine.

A psychiatrist for more than 40 years, Dr. Abas has met people from all walks of life who have, at one time or another, tried to face up to their fears, whether real or imaginary.

He has helped many of them lead productive lives by making them confront their demons. If not brought out into the open, these inner demons could make an individual a physical and psychological wreck.

Citing Hans Selye, a Viennese doctor in the 19th century and a pioneer in stress management, Abas points out that there is such a thing as "organwhal"—the language of the organs.

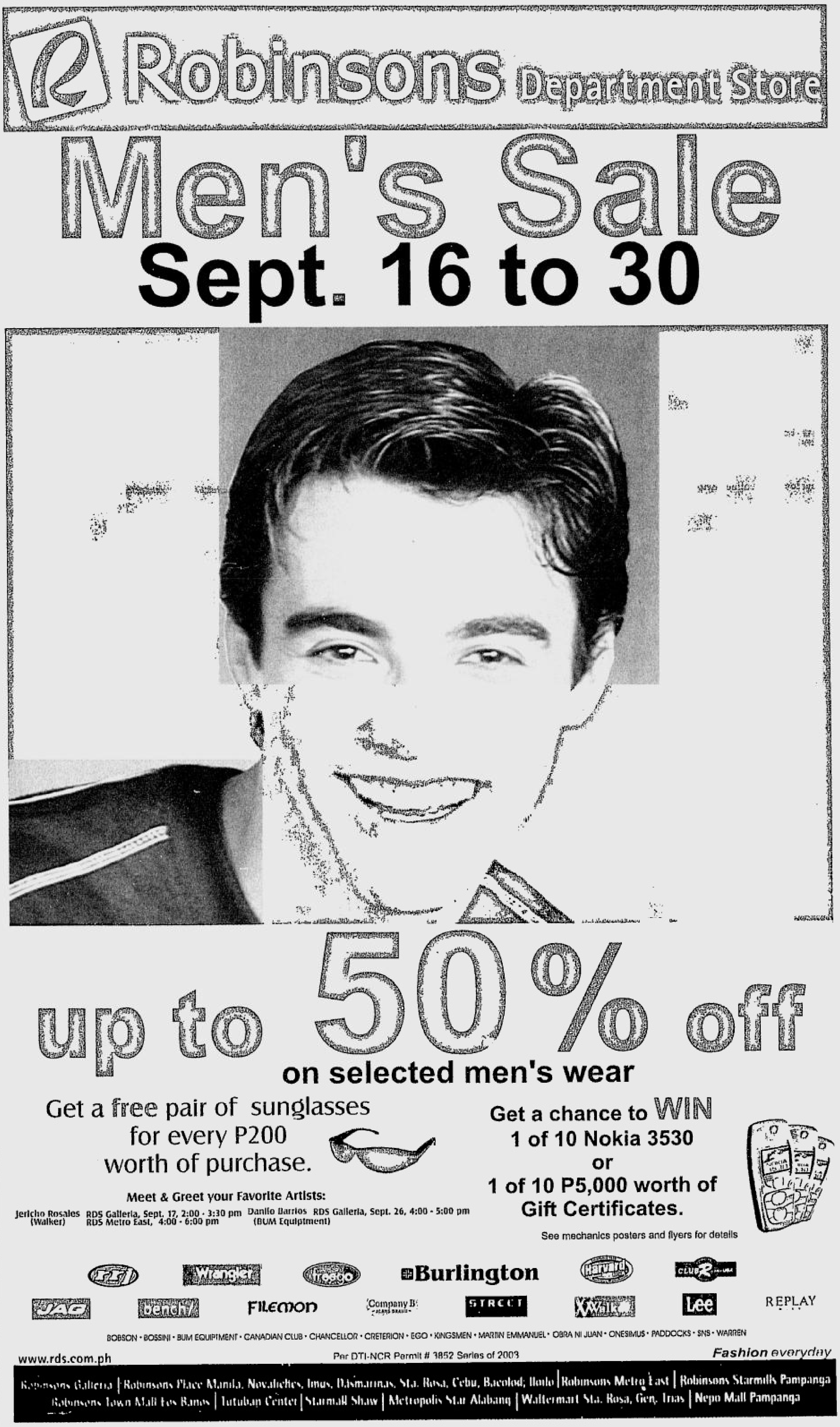
Selye believed that some diseases are directly caused by stress, like peptic ulcer, cardiovascular diseases and other forms of cancer. Unmanaged stress can also affect people psychologically.

Stress per se is not harmful and is a part of daily life. How to manage it is what counts. Whether one is a top honcho of a big corporation, a ordinary housewife, an employee or a student, unmanaged stress can affect everyone, and this can come out in various forms like phobias, anxieties, tension and depression.

People who suffer from stress may obtain relief by getting plenty of sleep, learning to relax and recognizing the roots of one's fears. Relaxation is part of the therapy usually prescribed by psychotherapists. It can involve doing things that one enjoys, like gardening, painting, cooking or even malling.

Popping a "happy pill" can only help for a limited period, and Dr. Abas himself calls it a cop-out, a way out of becoming self-sufficient and developing a concrete plan of action to manage stress.

In short, to avoid stress, stop thinking like a victim. Be in control, and lead a simple life. A relaxed, happy and uncomplicated outlook is the key to a less stressful existence.



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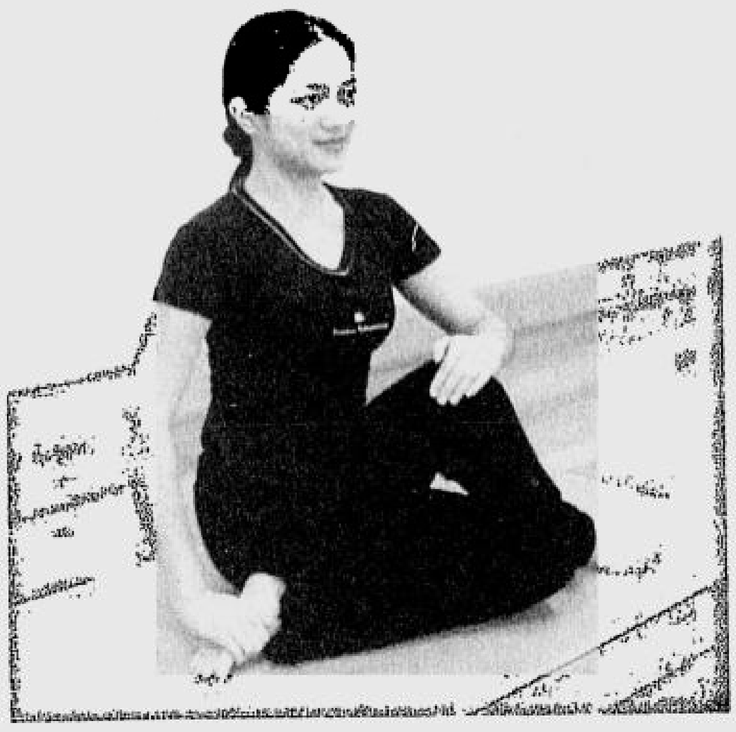
EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Pretzel stretch



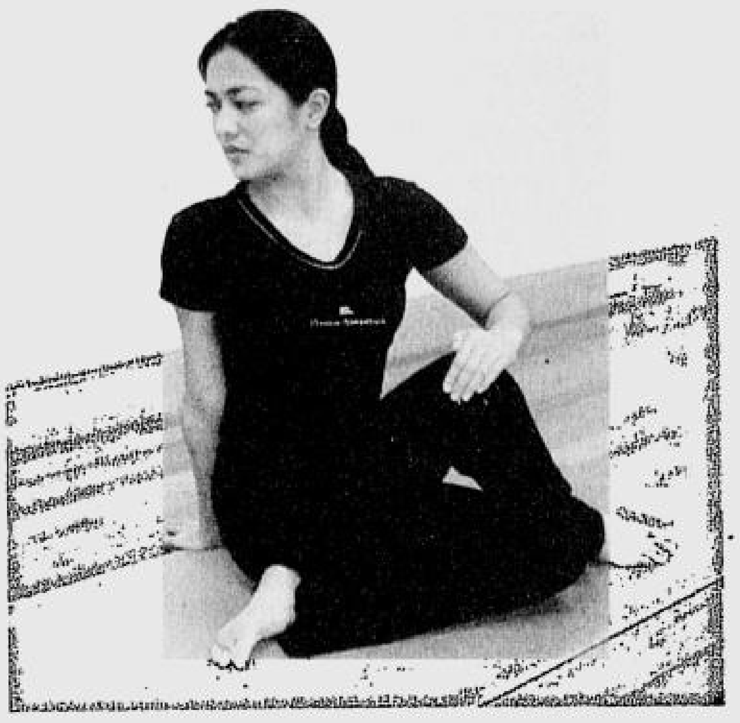
THIS yoga-inspired exercise stretches the hips, buttocks and waist.

Exercise:

1. Sit with your right leg crossed over your bent left leg. Your right heel should be beside your left knee and your left heel should be beside the right side of your buttocks.
2. Use your left hand to press your right knee close to your torso.
3. Turn your torso to look over your right shoulder with your right hand on the floor behind you.
4. Hold the stretch for 15-30 seconds. Continue breathing normally all throughout the stretch.
5. Repeat on the other side.

Performance tips:

1. Keep your torso lifted "tall" before attempting to rotate the spine.
2. Make sure you are sitting on your "sit bones."
3. There is a tendency to restrict depth of breathing when in a twisted position. Avoid this by consciously expanding your ribcage as you inhale.



How to lose marital fat

From page C1

neglecting their children because they go to the gym every day. This strategy works very well, by the way, because Filipina women are very sensitive about being called "bad" mothers.

Sabotage is a major issue that has to be dealt with because the support of your spouse is crucial to your success. Here's what you can do about it.

First, recognize the sabotage attempts as your partner's misguided desire to keep your relationship the same way it used to be. Gently but firmly tell your partner how much it means to you to lose weight and how much you need his/her support.

If you suspect your spouse is feeling insecure and is the jealous type, then I suggest you use the "health" approach. Do not talk about how you want to lose weight to fit into your old clothes. Talk about how you need to lose weight for health reasons. Go see your doctor and get your blood pressure, cholesterol, triglycerides and blood sugar tested. Trust me, if you are middle-aged and you are 10-20 lbs overweight, you will usually find something that needs to be improved. These are the "numbers" you should discuss with your spouse about your weight loss progress, not your vital statistics, like how many inches you have lost in your waistline. Keep those numbers to yourself and gloat in private.

If your spouse keeps bringing home "fattening" gifts, thank him/her for the thought behind the gift, but let him/her know you'll rather receive something else, like a good book or an invitation to the movies.

If they complain you are spending time away from the family to exercise, encourage them to join you so you can "bond" with each other in a healthy way. Talk about how important it is for both of you to keep fit for your kids.

If they say you aren't fun anymore because you don't want to go to restaurants that serve fattening food, compromise and agree to go once a week. You have several options: Choose the least fattening meal that you can from the menu. If there really is nothing to choose from, eat smaller portions. You can also consider that day your "cheat" day and choose something you really like and enjoy yourself without guilt.

If you are in charge of the shopping and cooking, you have a distinct advantage because you can cook separate meals for yourself that are not so fattening, or you can "manipulate" the menu to include healthier versions. If you are a good cook, you can even modify the recipes without your spouse realizing what's going on. You can get away with this if you don't announce what you are doing and you make minor modifications slowly so the taste of the recipe does not change drastically.

Ideal situation

The ideal situation is when couples decide to get healthy and lose weight together. Everything becomes much easier. Half the battle is won when the food environment at home is cleaned up. However, it can be a very frustrating experience for the wife because her husband will usually lose more weight at a faster pace. This isn't because she is not as diligent as he is about her diet or exercise program, but simply because he burns more calories because of his greater muscle mass.

Being the competitive creatures that they are, men sometimes brag about their success and tease their wives about their "failure." Guys, if you know what's good for you, don't do this. Not only will it discourage your wife but if you push it far enough, you'll find yourself in the doghouse. Ladies, life really is unfair and men really do have a faster metabolism courtesy of all those manly muscles. So stop comparing your progress and be patient.

For past articles, exercises and suggestions for future columns, visit www.tinajuanfitness.com.

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Meet your MEDICard Team

Dr. Chona Gicabao-Berino was conferred Doctor of Medicine at the Divine Word University in Tacloban. Thereafter, she took residency training for a specialization in Pediatrics at Chinese General Hospital in Sta Cruz, Manila where she now renders care to MEDICard members. "Doktora", a Philippine Pediatric Society and a Philippine Medical Society affiliate, is also a loving mother to two. Despite her very hectic schedule, she still finds time to enjoy her hobby, cooking. She is also fond of traveling and keeps herself fit with regular work outs at the gym. Members can visit Dr. Chona Berino at her clinic, Room C-13, every Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 2 to 4 PM.

Recently joining the team of MEDICard medical providers in Medical City General Hospital in Mandaluyong City is **Dr. Irma G. Tan-Nuñez.** Doktora Nuñez finished her studies in Medicine at the University of Santo Tomas. She specializes in the field of Dermatology and is a Fellow to the Philippine Society of Cutaneous Medicine. She is married to Dr. Anthony Nuñez, also an accredited Ophthalmologist, with whom she has two kids, Bernard and Kevin. Dr. Nuñez holds clinic at the Medical Plaza of Medical City, Suite 1803. Her clinic hours are every Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 8 AM to 5 PM and on Saturdays from 8 AM to 12 noon.

At the Chong Hua Hospital in Cebu City, members may seek the services of Internist **Dr. Faith Dejoras Villanueva.** "Doktora Faith", is a Medicine graduate from the Xavier University in Cagayan De Oro. She finished her residency training for her specialization at Chong Hua Hospital and her subspecialty training for Infectious Diseases at Makati Medical Center. Members may visit Dr. Villanueva for their consultation needs at her clinic, Room 209 of the Medical Arts Bldg., Mondays to Saturdays, from 9 AM to 12 noon.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.

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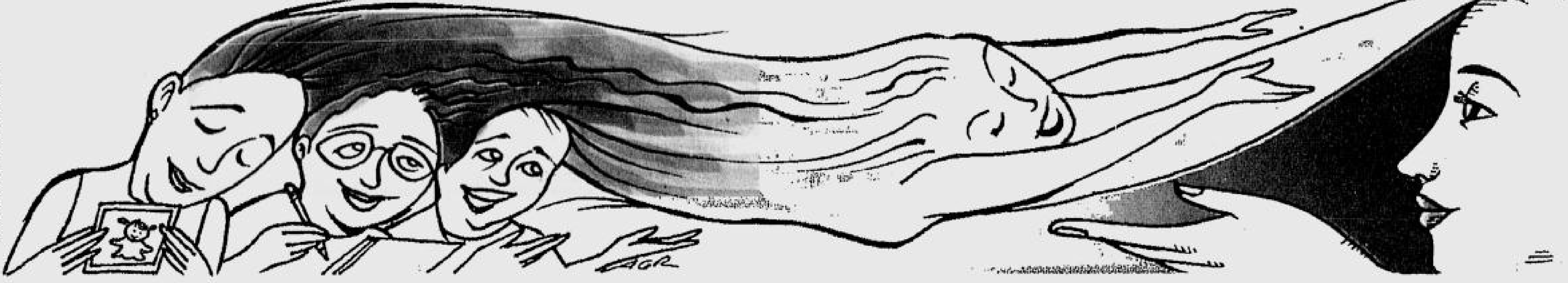


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

'How might your life be different?'

A workshop-retreat seeks to help women embrace and reconnect with themselves, leading to healing

By Elizabeth Lolarga
Contributor

RECITED like a chant by 22 participants in "Circle of Stones: A Workshop/Retreat for Women," were these lines from Judith Duerk: "How might your life have been different if there had been a place for you? A place for you to go, a place of women to help you learn the ways of woman, a place where you were nurtured from an ancient flow, sustaining you and steadying you as you sought to become yourself. A place of women to help you find and trust the ancient flow already there within yourself, waiting to be released... How might your life be different?"

Variations on this theme of the wounded child and the wise woman underlined the journey of love and belonging led by facilitator Didi Belardo at the Center for Health and Creative Arts (Chacra)-sponsored retreat at the Good Shepherd Convent's Maurice Pavilion in Quezon City.

The pavilion is named after Sr. Mary Maurice (Agnes Matilda Gallant), who used the former barn as her station while taking care of farm workers' children and helping sisters in their masters' theses, thus putting "her heart and mind in all she did."

Belardo has master's degrees in spiritual psychology and counseling psychology from the University of Santa Monica in Los Angeles. Her clinical practice is done at the Center for Individual and Family Counseling in North Hollywood. Her work, influenced by shaman-teacher Lynn Andrews, has been described as bridging ancient wisdom and modern life.

All she required us to bring were our baby photos and two stones, one to keep and the other to give away. These stones or crystals were placed on a makeshift altar that stood beside Belardo, who struck a gong to tell the time. Covered in assorted batik cloths, the altar had four small, lighted candles on every corner while a huge, thick candle, also lit throughout the day, loomed over it.

A Maryknoll College alumna and former executive at Universal Pictures, Belardo explained that stones have quietly borne witness to people's comings and goings. "They have been here so long and seen so much," she said.

More than anything, the retreat sought to build a circle of women that could "fully embrace what we are" and reconnect with Mother Earth, whom she called "a sacred witness just watching without judgment, the wise teacher allowing us to make mistakes."

More present

The readings and processes like silent journal writing, movement meditation to music/art-making/writing, heartfelt listening, guided visualization and sharing what we went through enabled us to be more present in ourselves despite our varied backgrounds and reasons for attending.

Participant "A" (anonymity was a clause we agreed upon from the start) said she has been "a pilgrim all the time, caught between wanting to do everything and wanting to do nothing." "B," a landscape painter and a grandmother, considered herself still "happily searching." "C" wanted God to make her an instrument for instilling goodness in children, while "D," who has made a career out of seminary formation in a world of men, wished to be with women for a change.

"E" had been a nun for 34 years and left the religious congregation two years ago, but was bent on continuing "a consecrated life" and doing inner-child work. "F" has had a life "fraught with challenges," while "G" felt lost and hoped that the retreat would start her own journey. "H," an adventurer and painter of still lifes (mainly of stones), wanted to go on painting even if her husband dismissed her work for looking more like potatoes.

"I" was "getting in touch" with her real self, and "J" was "hurting after being on a roller-coaster ride for the past years, feeling like a candle that was losing its spark and needed to revive her energy. "K," who flew in from Bacolod City, said she was about to fall apart. "L" had reached a point in her life where she questioned her existence and later discovered a group into inner work, so she is "helping people grow as I grow, too."

"M" admitted that she was confused about her identity, whether to fly back to New Zealand where work awaited her as a potter or to stay in the Philippines to care for an ailing sibling. "N" was at a stage in her life where she began asking, after her daughter began her own career, "Is this all I want to do? I'm looking for much more. People think that I'm crazy. They say I should feel blessed."

"O" has been a nun for 36 years, but she is after "a feeling of wholeness and freedom," and as she cares for her 91-year-old mother, despite years of shepherding work, she finds it a difficult responsibility.

"P" felt discontented as she entered her 40s. "There was something lacking. How come I was unhappy when I have everything? There is something in us that looks for a higher self. My journey is one of becoming lighter. I'm happy getting glimpses of what it's all about," she said.

And so on, the matrix of midlife's and post-midlife's challenges humming underneath.

Wise woman

Belardo pinpointed midlife as around the time when the wise woman emerges, a "wonderful, fulfilling and spiritual" phase and the beginning of deep friendships with men. "The wise woman is attuned to who she is and how everything falls into place inside and outside," she said.

She herself is happy to return to commune with women in a place where it is safe to show emotions, she added. It was no accident that we were in a circle, "equidistant to each other, exactly where we ought to be, healing and empowering ourselves."

She pointed to the mythical being within each woman, "the divine feminine crying out to be expressed. Paradoxically, what drives us is the inner child that has been neglected. This is the one who was not attended to when we were young and yearns to be held, heard, paid attention to. When you quash the self, the body begins to ache. You must serve the self first to better serve others."

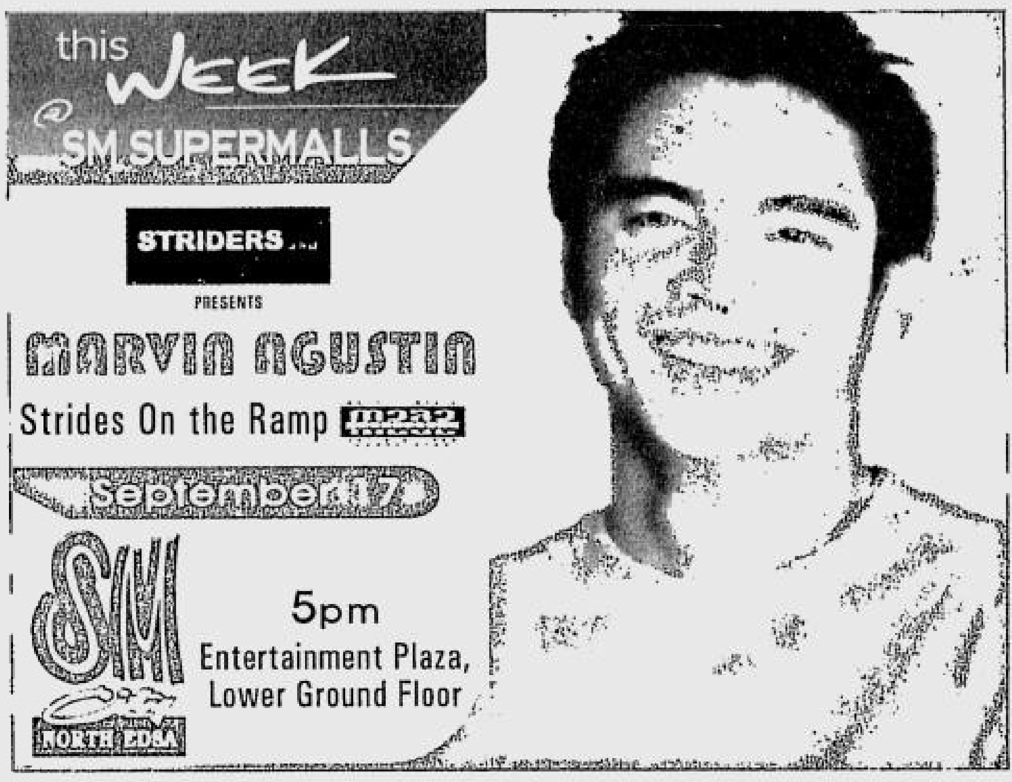
As a family system therapist, Belardo has seen that while we were children, "our needs were not satisfied. There is a transmission of issues inter-generationally. We are raised by wounded people, so the wounding goes on and on. We must find the ability to forgive them and forgive ourselves. When we're into our own issues, it's that child who is running our lives, crying to be healed."

We tried to connect with that child and ask of her, "What do you need from me? How can I be a better parent to you?"

Belardo invited us to touch the emotions that weren't allowed to be expressed. She described the inner child as the one who is "skipping and playing. She is joyful, she is energetic, she is grace."

One skill that she passed on was "seeing the

HOW MIGHT / D2



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BRAZILIAN Ambassador Claudio Lyra (center) and Brazilian friend John Lintjer, ADB VP for finance, with his wife

SLPC GM Lala Fojas with Collect and Cherish owner Tony Aquino and Benny Liwanag

BRAZILIAN diva Ive Mendes and Pops Fernandez

Party marks entertainment and dining center's launch

GUARANA band entertains party guests at Streetscape opening.

CATHY Arce, chief of Business License Division of the city of Mandaluyong, with Lynne Junsay and Sheila Castrosanto of Shangri-La Plaza Mall

ANTHONY Corro

JUDITH Dayrit

SHANGRI-LA Plaza Mall exploded with life as sultry Brazilian singer Ive Mendes opened Streetscape, the mall's outdoor dining and entertainment center. The celebration also featured Pops Fernandez and Latin specialist show bands Piñacolada and Guarana, with DJs Fran and Boom of RX 93.1 as hosts.

Sprawled over a landscape of palm trees, flowering shrubs and other lush foliage, Streetscape provides a relaxing tropical atmosphere. Street parties, concerts and other shows are featured every weekend.

Streetscape also boasts of casual and fine-dining restaurants, bars, cafés and bistros lining up the mall's Internal Avenue, such as Starbucks, Via Mare, Gloria Maris, Red Crab, Mini Shabu-shabu, Dome, California Pizza Kitchen, Whistle Stop and Watering Hole. Likewise, the al fresco area is fitted with parasol-shaded seats for guests who prefer to dine under the stars, in the midst of soothing greenery. Crepes de France, Boca Boca Wine Bar, Cinnzeo and International Sushi Bar are among the outlets found in this area.

Seen at Streetscape's launch were Butch Aquino, Brazilian Ambassador Claudio Maria Henrique Docouto Lyra, Joey 92.3 president Francis Lumen with wife Mary Ann, Ces and Rock Drilon, Dolly Ann Dy, Karylle, VJ Shannen Torres, Amiel Cabanlig, Raul Teehankee, Noel Teehankee, Peachy Veneracion, Paul Smith's Juan Miguel Ongsiako, Simply Gold's Johnny Pardo and Donnie Ramirez. Also seen enjoying the party were BusinessWorld's Raoul Cheekee, Manila Times columnist Cris Ramos, Shang Tower PR lady Malou Rosal, chair and president of Shangri-La Plaza Corp. Tom Zita Jr., Me editor Mary Rose Jimenez, Manila Standard's Jason Brizuela, businessman Tony Aquino, Via Mare's Larry Tolosa and Annette, DJ Eric Mana, engineer Jose Mabanta with wife Bella, Maribel Dario, Bobby Claudio and Johnlu Koa.

STREETSCAPE, the perfect place for wining and dining!

KPPI's Vince Formoso, SLPC strategic planning manager Chelle Fernan, SVP for finance Mary Ann Dizon, lawyer Bobong Noel and VP for operations Jolyon Tiglao

DIETER Reichert, Rep. Butz Aquino with friend, SLPC chair and president Tomas Zita and Bella Mabanta

'How might . . .'

From page D1

loving essence of who we are and of the other person." The readings likened the skill to the Buddhist greeting "Namaste," which recognizes that "the soul within me recognizes, acknowledges, respects and appreciates the soul within you."

She said much of women's work consists mainly of seeding, scattering and sowing, adding that we must learn to be detached from the outcome and at the same time give "the other person the dignity of his/her own person."

More powerful

As the retreat moved to its end, we each drew up resolutions and intentions. Of the latter, Belardo said that in the spiritual realm, intentions could at times be "more powerful than action."

Someone intended to "deload, focus and listen more to my heart." Another wanted to move on after her period of grief for the recently deceased.

A veteran counselor said she would tune in to her husband's "inner boy" because she found that men have a harder time opening up. A woman realized that "it's the women who carry the village and move it forward. Men just talk and think that they've done work."

An ex-nun resolved to loosen up some more after junking "the image of being obedient, humble, responsible" before the world, adding that she wanted to cultivate "the wild/wise woman within."

A busy woman said she would adopt a healthy diet for more vitality and spend more time with her family. One other such woman said she wanted to be more patient because, as her daughter put it, "When God distributed patience, I got impatient and left the line."

Meanwhile, the stones on the altar were each imbued with qualities that we wanted to give to another person. While I imbued "toughness amidst life's adversities" to the stone I brought to give away, I received one that had "endurance for the agonies and ecstasies of life."

The others received light, serenity, faith in the order of life, patience in letting people unfold their wings, peace, centeredness, a passion for the present, gentleness, wisdom, forgiveness, wholeness or integration, stability, love, compassion and gratefulness, among a list of blessings.

Belardo said even if the final exercise was dismantling the altar, "it is never dismantled. We carry it in our hearts."

The journey goes on.

Visit www.chacra.org.ph or e-mail chacracenter@yahoo.com.

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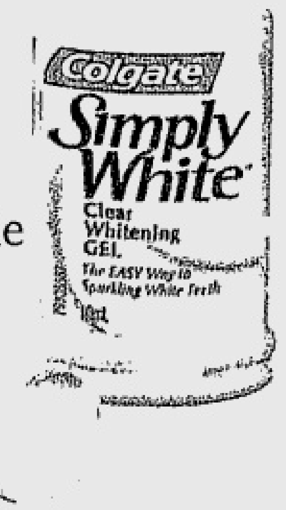
SIMPLY beautiful. Flash that pretty smile while in a knit ensemble by Lulu Tan Gan.

ROMY HOMILLADA

Restore those pearly whites

By Allison W. Lopez

Colgate's new product removes teeth stains and allows you to flash a brighter smile



A BRIGHT smile is the perfect accessory to any look. It gives an instant lift to the spirit in these "days of disquiet and nights of rage," cheering up an otherwise stormy season of super typhoons and coup threats.

Of course, a brilliant smile means teeth that are not stained by nicotine and caffeine.

Fortunately, Colgate has come up with something that will truly make us smile. Simply White, the company's latest innovation and the first of its kind in the market, will remove those stains that lessen the brilliance of our smiles. It is easy-to-use, affordable and effective in whitening teeth.

"Most whitening procedures take up valuable time or money," says Jose Manuel Estrada, marketing director of Colgate Palmolive Philippines. Simply White eliminates the need for trays or strips, which tend to be cumbersome. The revolutionary gel, which comes in a small tube with a brush applicator, can be applied in a minute or even less as it is merely "painted" on the teeth's enamel.

Paolo Salcedo, Colgate Palmolive's product manager, stresses that Simply White is not just a temporary coat to cover up the teeth's real color. "Simply White is quickly absorbed and begins whitening effortlessly, removing even deep stains," he says.

The product uses the same ingredient that dentists use to whiten teeth so it is safe on the tooth enamel. Although it whitens natural teeth, it will not harm crowns, caps, fillings and veneers.

Immediate results

The product is to be applied twice a day, preferably morning and at night. The gel is quickly absorbed and the whitening process begins immediately, resulting in noticeably whiter teeth in only 14 days!

"Some even see results after three days," says Salcedo.

Clinical tests show that the gel removes 70 percent of surface stains after three weeks of use. Pye Trinidad, 26-year-old brand manager of a beauty store, says results started showing after six days of use.

"By the 10th day, I knew that the treatment was working," she says. A regular coffee, tea and red wine drinker, Trinidad says, "I don't have to give up my habits anymore as long as there's Simply White."

Vicky Tensuan, Mega Magazine beauty editor, says the product's hassle-free feature appeals the most to her fast-paced lifestyle.

"Editing work is really hectic, so it's good that the product is very convenient to use and easy to bring around," she says. The bottle is small, fitting easily in her *kikay* kit.

Each dip of the brush is enough to cover about three teeth. One bottle lasts for the full two-week treatment at least.

As long as you don't share your bottle of Simply White, you do not have to worry about dipping and re-dipping the same brush. The gel has ingredients to kill germs on the applicator brush. And since the gel has to be applied after you brush your teeth, there won't be a lot of germs in your mouth to worry about.

14-day regimen

The gel can be applied immediately after brushing without waiting for the teeth to dry.

Missing a day or two of application is no cause for alarm. Salcedo says the important thing is to complete 14 days.

Just remember to be careful in returning the brush to the bottle. The small opening (meant to minimize the chances of the gel drying up) could result in the applicator brush's splitting and looking like an old *walis tambo*. A misshapen brush will make application difficult.

Application causes a little frothing in the mouth resulting from a natural chemical reaction between the gel and saliva. The slight aftertaste doesn't taste bad nor stays long.

The product's whitening effect lasts about six months. Salcedo explains the short-term effect: "With the teeth, it's a constant wear-and-tear process. It would be better to avoid staining agents such as coffee and nicotine. Using whitening toothpastes can also help maintain the color."

Simply White is now available at an introductory price of P675.

Colgate will be holding free dental consultations on Sept. 21 at the Atrium A of SM Megamall and Sept. 25-28 at the Podium.

A fashion show featuring the all-white collections of renowned designers Frederick Peralta, Lulu Tan-Gan, Randy Ortiz and Jojie Lloren will also take place on Sept. 21 at SM Megamall Atrium A.

Visit the Colgate website at www.colgate.com for more information.

Rockin' and bowlin' battle

THE SM City North Edsa Bowling Center launched recently its Rock and Bowl Battle of the Bands.

A total of 34 bands participated in the launch that spread the message that bowling and rocking can mix. The event, held in cooperation with Converse Chuck Taylor, featured lots of music, bowling and fun. Actor Ronnie Rickets was special guest.

Hosted by Magic 89.9's Joan, the event drew bowlers from other SM Bowling Centers in Megamall and Fairview. Featured bands included Animo ni Juan, Shattered Silence, Miran, Soundtrack, Liquid Sky, Diadem, Reborn, Oxford Circus, Mydrassis, Longstem Bonzai Apo ni Enteng and Blue Lite.

Other performers were Ground Zero, Halfdays on Sundays, Shallow Dish, Private Parts, Brown Machine, Haring Tagalog, Typecast, Flying Saucer, Slash N Burn, Blackdecker, Kasoy and Y-Not.

ACTOR Ronnie Rickets with Magic 89.9's Joan during the Rock and Bowl's Battle of the Bands launch at SM City North Edsa Bowling Center

The Rock and Bowl Battle of the Bands will begin with weekly competitions from 6 p.m. until midnight Sept. 6, 13, 20 and 27; and Oct. 4, 11 and 18.

Five semi-finalists will be chosen on Oct. 25, each receiving P2,500 in cash and P2,500 worth of Converse products.

Winners in the grand finals on Nov. 15 at SM City North Edsa will receive P50,000 in cash and P50,000 worth of Converse products, a recording contract with Viva Records and two days vacation at the Island Cove resort.

Participating bands will also have the chance to compose a Chuck Taylor song, with the best composition winning P5,000 in cash and P5,000 in Converse products.

Bowlers can root for the band of their choice in the most popular band category. The winner will receive a special Converse gift pack. A lucky voter, selected in a raffle draw, will also receive a Converse gift pack.

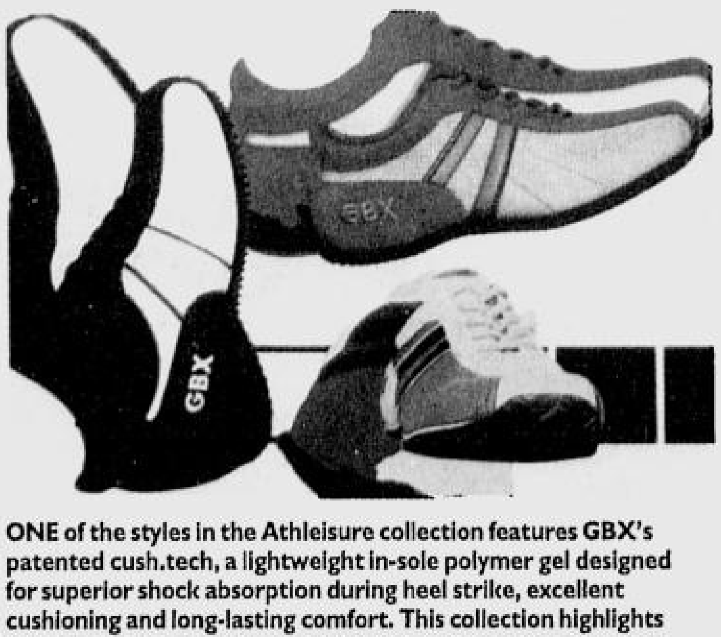
Race challenge features famous personalities

DIETHER Ocampo and Kristine Ching of the INQUIRER

THE OAKLEY Bionetwork Challenge was recently held at Corregidor Island. Participants included Diether Ocampo and Kristine Ching of the INQUIRER, Brad Turvey and Ana Kalaw of Philippine Star, Bobby Andrews and Sian Lagdameo, Dominic Ochoa and Pamela Ong of Business World Online, Dino Guevarra and Michelle Katigbak of the Philippine Star, Geof Briz and Richelle Vibal, Akiko Thomson and Micah Muñoz, Tricia Chiongbian and Michael Yap, Carlo Ledesma and Jennifer Ong of the Philippine Star, and Gaby dela Merced and Jun Delmo.

Watch the celebrity battle on Sept. 20, 3 p.m., at ABC 5.

GAMEPLAN host Akiko Thompson and model Micah Muñoz



ONE of the styles in the Athleisure collection features GBX's patented cush.tech, a lightweight in-sole polymer gel designed for superior shock absorption during heel strike, excellent cushioning and long-lasting comfort. This collection highlights Hyperspeed, a combination of suede leather and harbospacer material in vibrant colors.

GBX'S ATHLEISURE collection, the sporty choice for various leisure activities, carries a staggering range of styles in various color and material combinations. Styles include the best-selling Mexico trainer made of suede and floater leather in bright color combinations.

JANSPORT Airlift

Reengineered backpacks for greater comfort

JANSPORT introduces the Airlift, a line of reengineered backpacks with breakthrough styling.

The Airlift is the first backpack to use patented Gelastic cushioning technology, which delivers unprecedented load absorption and distribution, increased air circulation, and moisture wicking and shift control to redefine the meaning of true comfort. The Airlift system can reduce the strain and impact of heavy loads by 30 percent.

Aside from the Gelastic cushioning technology, JanSport Cool Airlift backpacks feature ergonomic S-curved shoulder straps that provide form-fitting comfort, fully-padded packs with plastic frame sheet, and a sweatbuster mesh to wick away moisture and facilitate airflow circulation.

JanSport is also introducing other new features such as the Airlight. This technology involves two foam layers within the shoulder straps that ensure maximum shock absorption comfort.

The Airzuit system, on the other hand, makes packs cooler, lighter and super comfortable, reducing pressure from daystraps by as much 40 percent.

Original JanSport backpacks are available at The Travel Club stores located at SM North Edsa, SM Megamall, SM Manila, SM Davao, SM Cebu, SM Cagayan, SM Iloilo, Ayala Center Makati, Alabang Town Center, Ayala Cebu and Shangri-La Plaza; Bratpack stores located at SM North Edsa-Annex, SM Manila, SM Southmall, SM Pampanga, SM Iloilo, SM Cagayan, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Bacolod and Robinsons Iloilo; Rustan's, SM Department store, Robinsons, Sta. Lucia East, Ever, Royal Sporting House, Chris Sports, Olympic Village, Toby's, Planet Sports, Metro Ayala, Victoria Plaza and other leading department stores, sports shops and outdoor shops nationwide.

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INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

EVERYONE needs help. No matter how knowledgeable or informed we think we are, there is always room for fine-tuning our senses, expanding our consciousness and upgrading our lifestyle toward wellness. The golden rule of Inside-Out is "how you look on the outside depends on what you do for the inside."

Save your skin

- **Eat foods rich in Vitamin A** (carrots, squash), B complex (raisins, cantaloupe), Vitamin C (guava, tomatoes), Vitamin E (salmon, mackerel, sardines), Vitamin D (dairy products) and mineral zinc (oysters, veggies, sunflower seeds).
- **Drink lots of water.** The general rule is have a cup of water every hour whether you are thirsty or not.
- **Avoid prolonged exposure to the sun, especially from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.** Wear sunblock with SPF 30 at all times whether indoors or outdoors. Why? Because indoor lighting still emits ultraviolet rays. Have an umbrella handy at all times. Wear sunglasses to avoid squinting. When sleeping, do not bury your face in the pillow. All that rubbing can cause deep facial lines and creases.
- **Lessen your sugar intake.** Sugar weakens your skin and causes wrinkles.

Protein drink:

2 tbsp soy-food protein powder (available at health food stores)
1 tbsp whey
2 tbsp lecithin granules
1½ c soy milk
2 tbsp fresh/frozen fruit or banana
3-4 ice cubes
Mix in blender for one minute. Drink up.

Busting stress

Staying calm during trying times is a sign of good self-control that can lead to better health management. Here are a few guidelines to follow.

- **Emotional control.** Too much anxiety can make one ill. If you are in a crying mood, let it out. You will feel much better after the episode. However, if the crying spells happen more often, see your doctor for hormone-testing and/or a psychotherapist for counseling.

Do something—anything to keep your mind preoccupied and your body moving. Exercise. Get a job. Do household chores. Enroll in art classes, etc.

Meditate. Quiet time is good. Play relaxing music. Keep still.

- **Body control.** Don't starve yourself. On the other hand, don't overindulge. Respect your body. Do not abuse it with junk food, alcohol, drugs, extreme physical exertions. Embark on a fitness program.
- **Lighten up.** Always find joy in every moment.
- **Treat yourself to a little pampering.** Have a regular massage, get a good makeover, buy yourself something special.

How you look on the outside depends on what you do for the inside

Lifting your spirits

Did you know that normal and happy persons can become depressed if their bodies are deficient in niacin and folic acid?

Poor diet and use of certain medications can cause mood swings. Lack of Vitamins C, B6, B12 and folic acid can make you feel depressed. Some medicines may make you feel low, such as barbiturates, antihistamines, oral contraceptives, estrogens, diuretics, anti-hypertensives, penicillin, laxatives, fluorides, tetracyclines, prednisone, arthritis medications, potassium supplements.

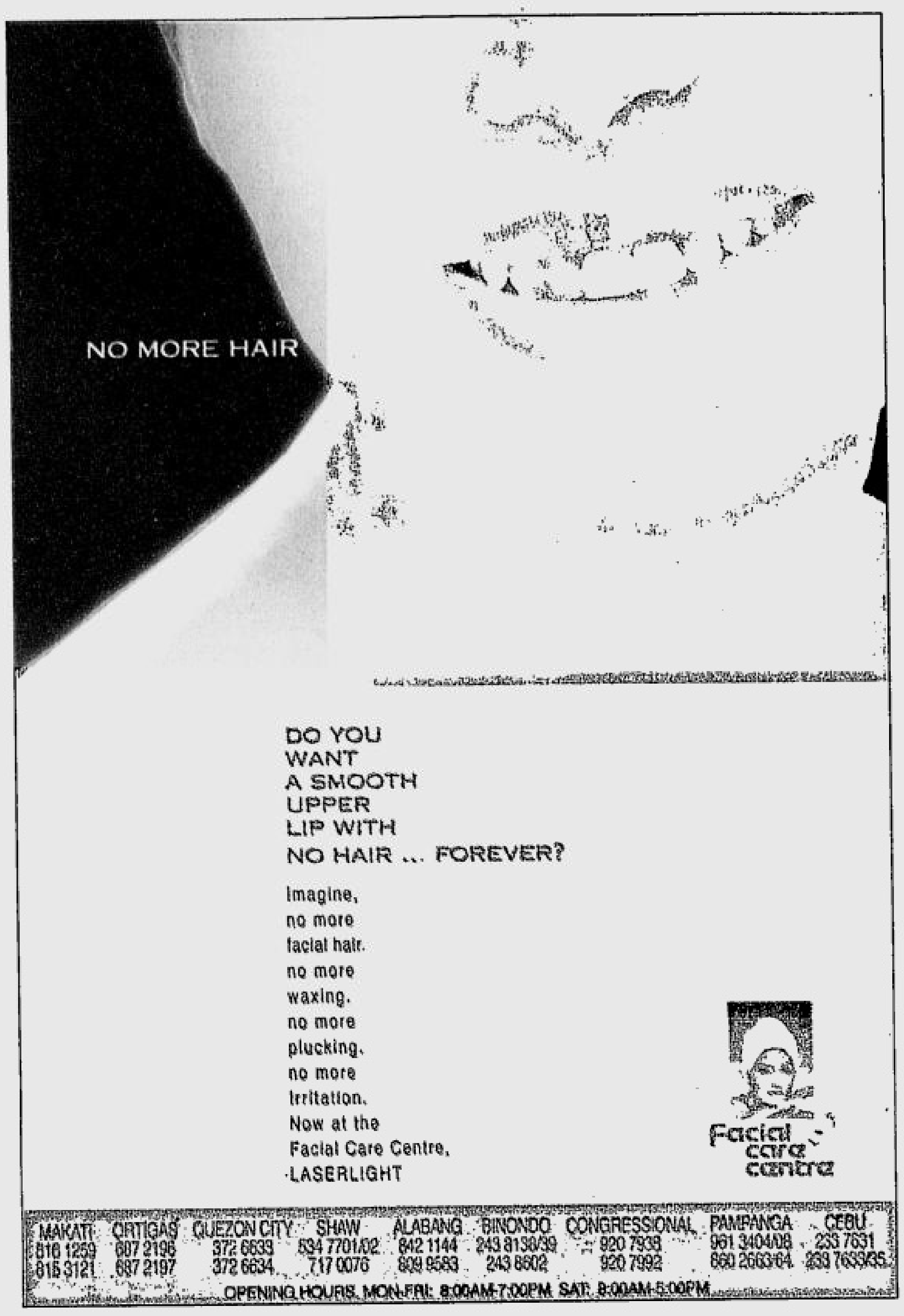
What to do to feel better:

- **Decrease your protein intake.** Increase your carbohydrates (pasta, rice, cereal instead of steak, eggs, chicken) because complex carbohydrates stimulate your brain levels of serotonin, a chemical which makes you more relaxed.
- **Take an amino-acid booster** (if you regularly feel depressed) like tyrosine and phenyalamine (500-2,000 mg) daily.
- **Feel-good teas** like St. John's Wort can give you good sleep, and peppermint can lift your spirits.
- **A hot bath** can soothe tired bodies and clear overburdened minds. Make it a daily seven-minute ritual. Dimming the lights and soaking in candle lights is the best mood enhancer yet.
- **Read a good book.** Have it handy as a bedside companion.
- **Practice the art of praising.** Praise God, life, this country, Mother Earth, your loved ones. Keep going, don't stop.

There's so much to be thankful for.
Love and light!

Sourced from: Earl Mindell's "Vitamin Bible For The 21st Century."

"Nestlé Nutren's "Total Wellness: Body, Mind and Spirit" with Jimmy Licauco and Cory Quirino is scheduled on Sept. 17, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at Nestlé Building, Rockwell Center, Makati City. Call 8980001 local 7183/6713. All those who made reservations should call for reconfirmation.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